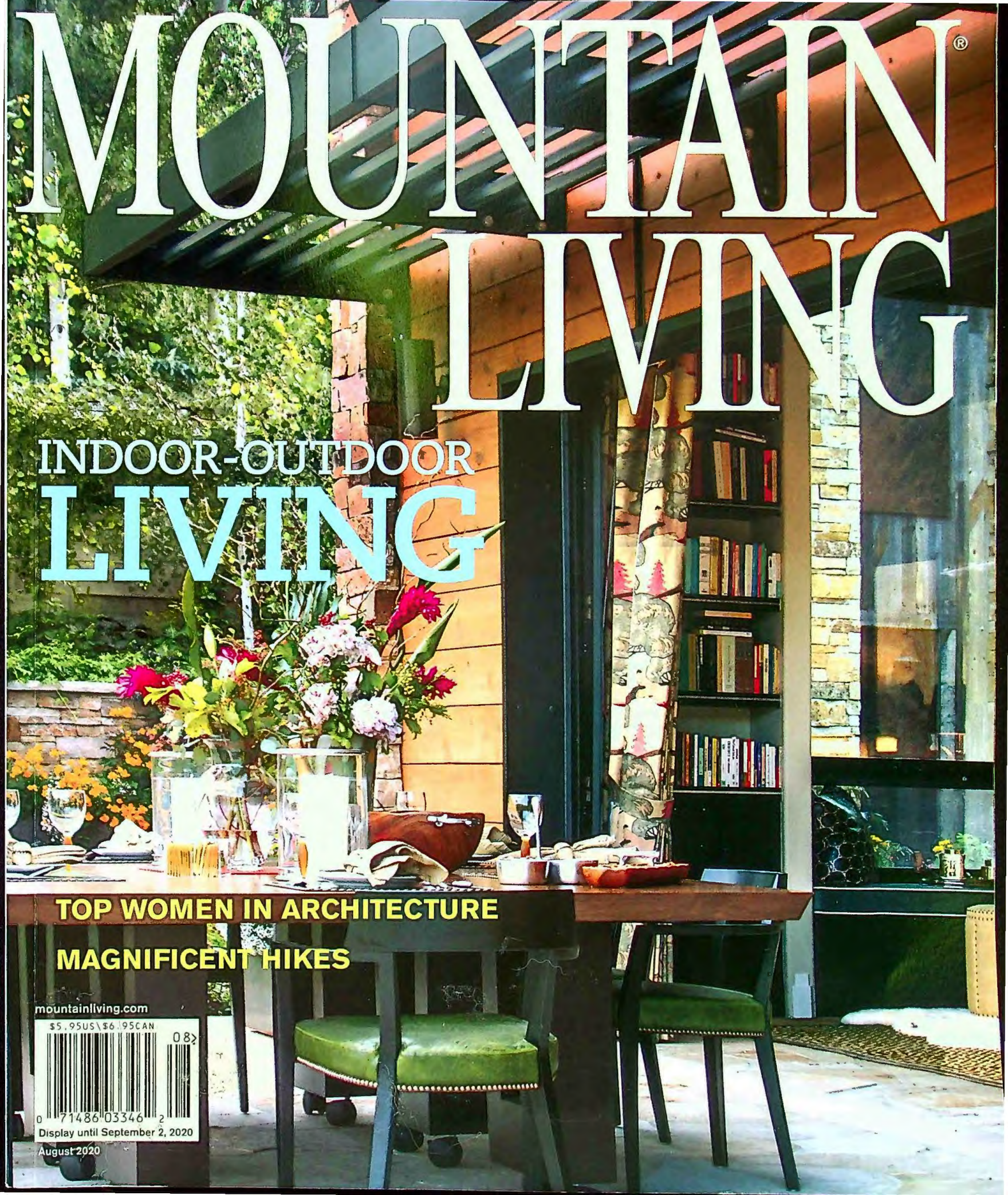
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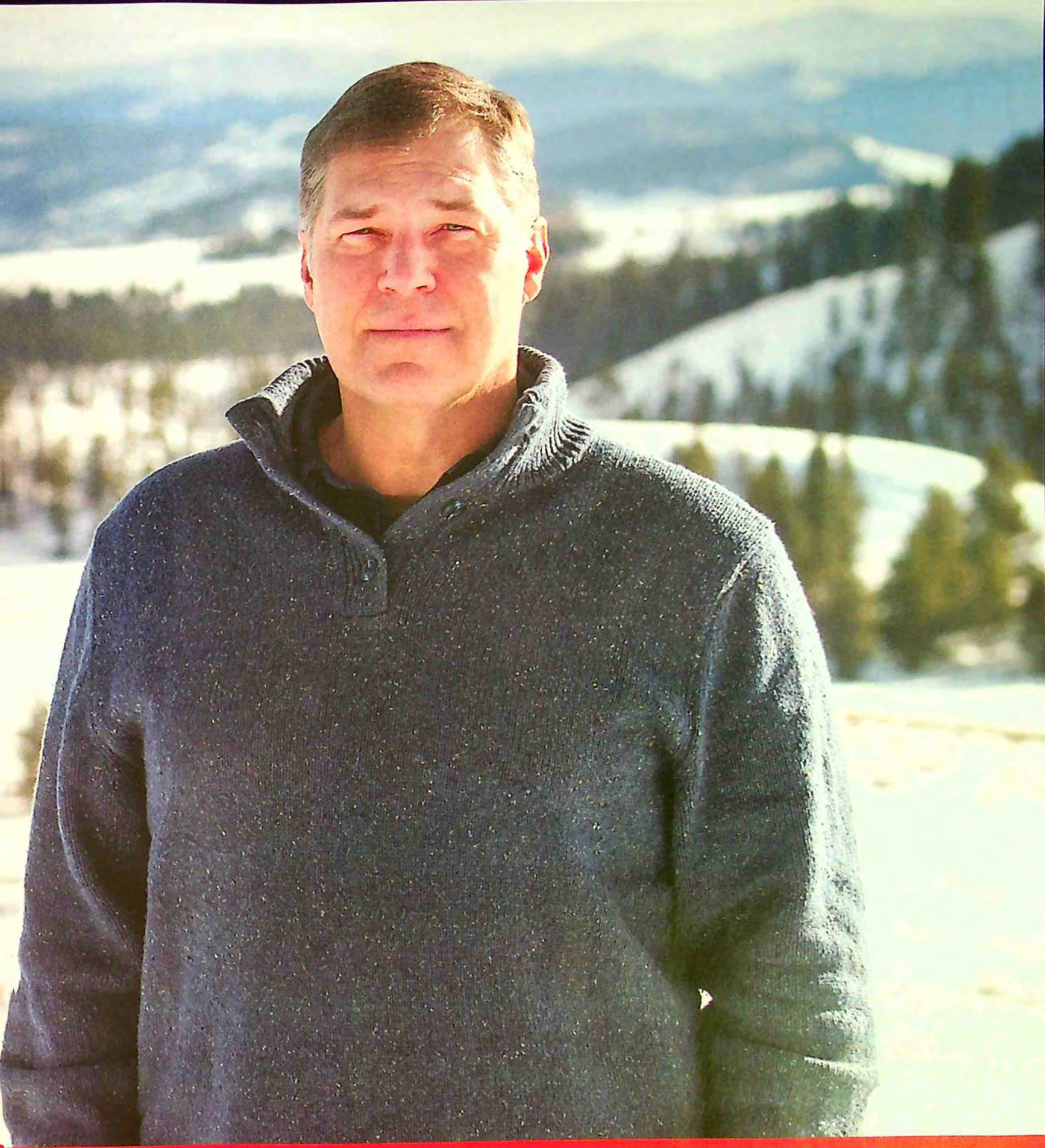

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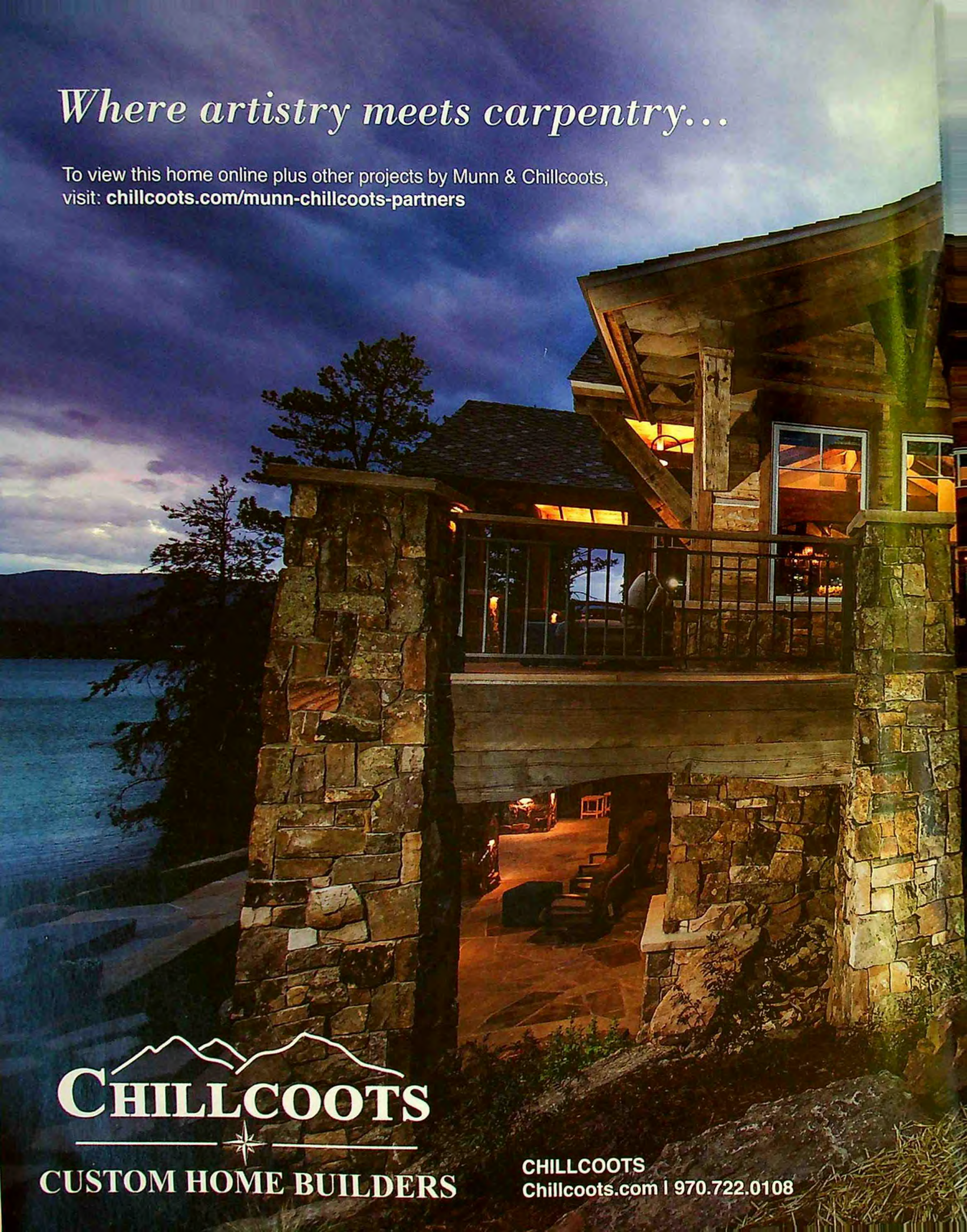
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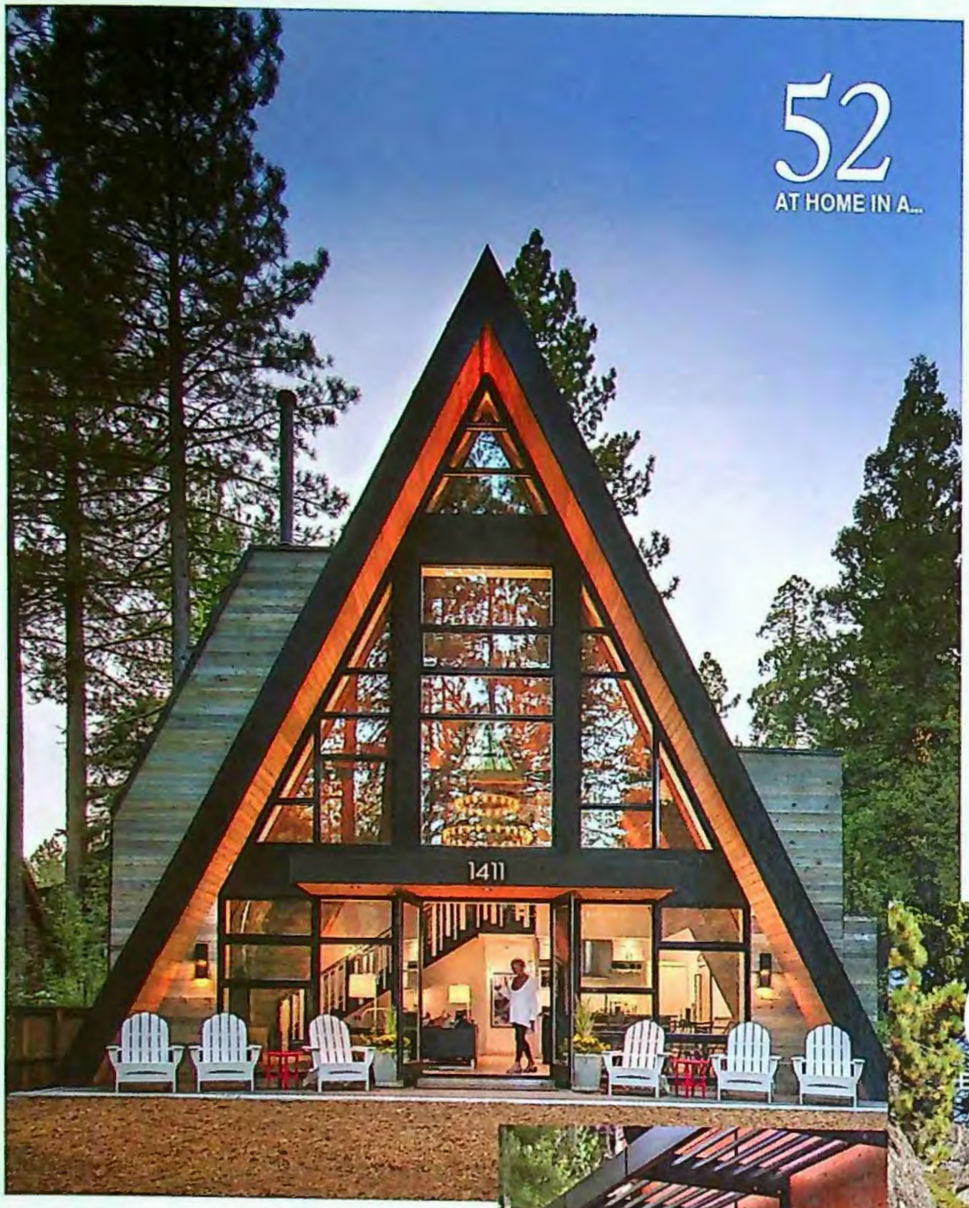

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A FLORIDA COUPLE RENOVATED AN EXPANSIVE RANCH OUTSIDE VAIL, COLORADO, TO CREATE A PERSONAL RESORT FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN INDOORS AND OUTDOORS,THE COZY DINING ROOM OPENS ONTO A SPACIOUS TERRACE.
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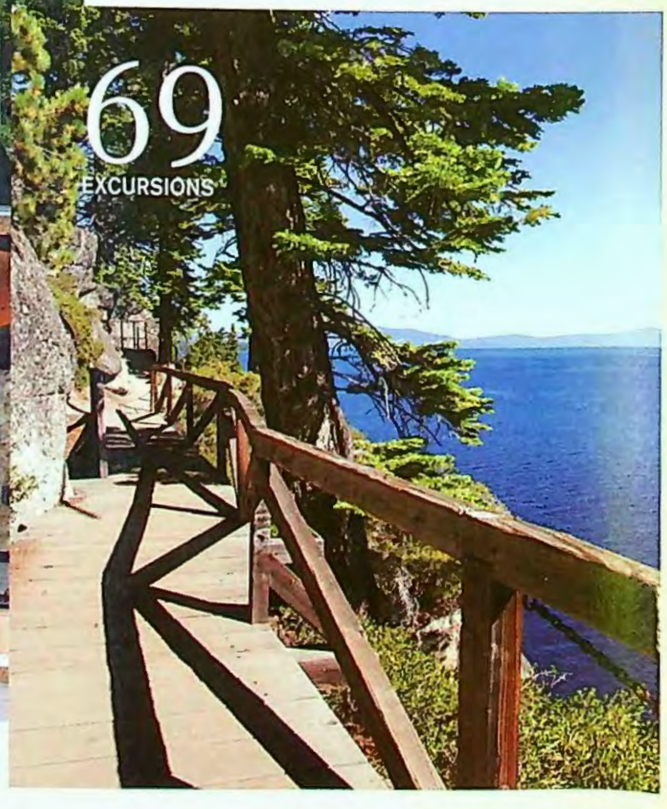

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Mountain Living announces its inaugural Women in Architecture Awards, honoring eight outstanding architects for their work to create mountain homes in new and interesting ways.

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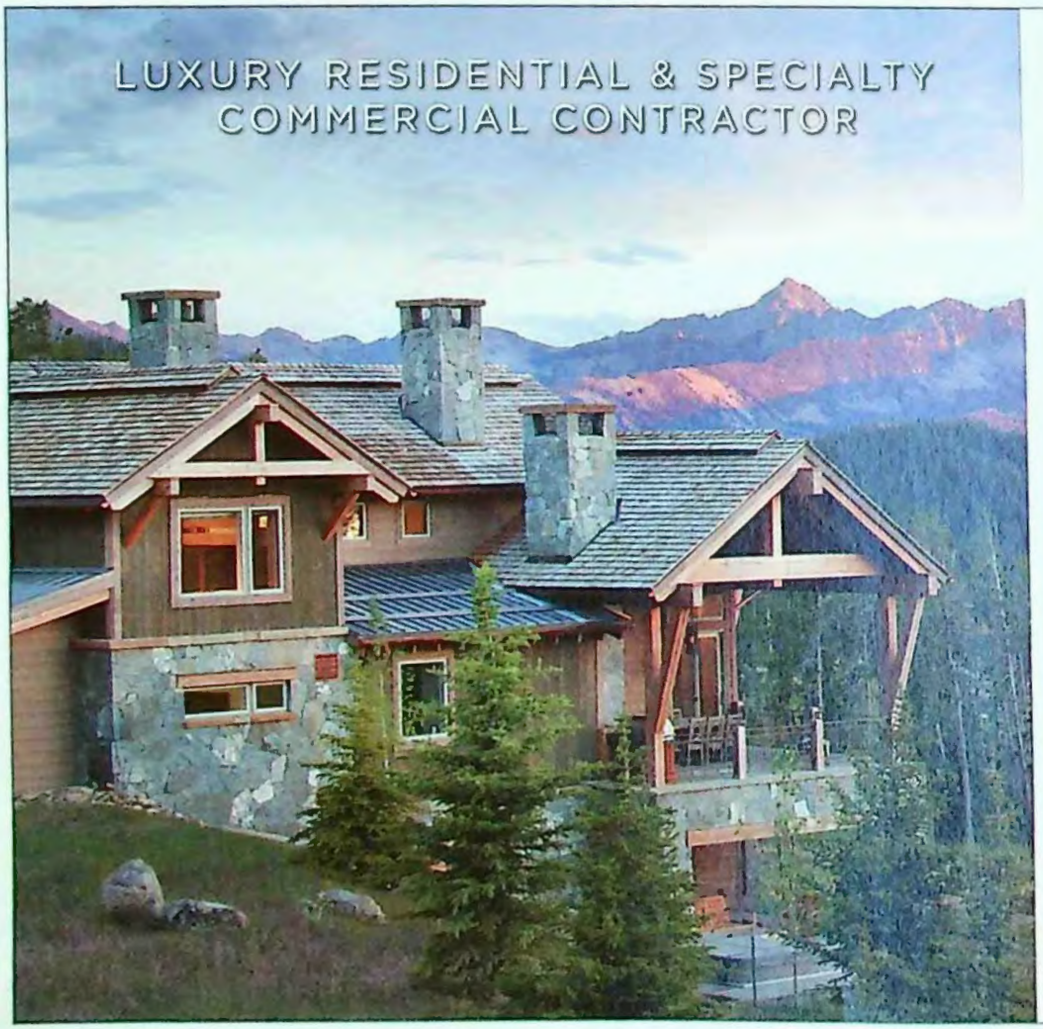

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AT HOME IN THE FOREST

Into the Woods: Retreats and Dream Houses (Rizzoli, 2020) features 50 houses selected from around the world with the most ecologically sustainable and innovative breakthroughs in architecture and design. This book is perfect for those who crave the tranquility of nature. *mountainliving.com/IntotheWoods*

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A CELEBRATION OF NATURE

On exhibition at the National Museum of Wildlife A- in Jackson, Wyoming, are the works by nature-and- wildlife artist Tucker Smith. The retrospective featu- Western wildlife, camp and cowboy scenes and s-. ning landscapes, on display through August 23. *mountainliving.com/TuckerSmith*

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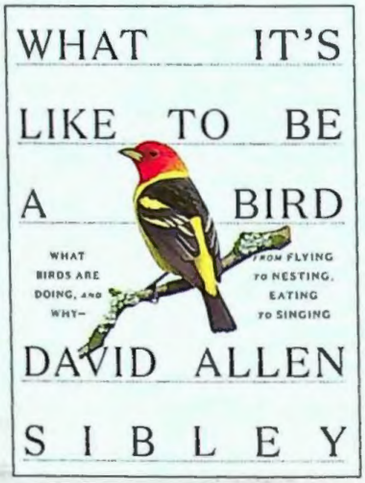
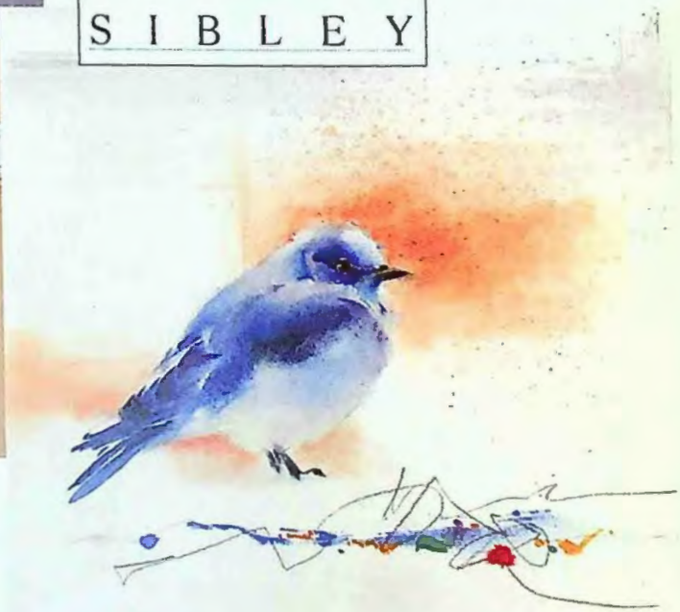


1) David Allen Sibley, author of the definitive bird book, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, provides a bird's-eye view of life in his new book, *What It's Like to Be a Bird*. 2) Artist Kathryn Turner, whose work was featured as the recent cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*, captures bird beauty in "Wings of Sky," 12" X 12", turnerfineart.com.



(2)

THE POWER OF NATURE

While we were all sitting inside our homes, nature was having a heyday. People reported hearing more birds singing—was the bird population exploding? Or was it that we were finally paying attention after life turned down the volume?

We've heard from national experts that one of the best things for our health, and safest during this time, is to get outdoors—nature is a prescription for good health. People living in the mountains know the healing power of nature—a hike through the pine-scented forest, a bike ride on a deserted path or a picnic at String Lake; these things are good for what ails us.

In this issue, we look at homes near Vail, Bozeman and Winter Park—all designed around indoor-outdoor living with nature at their core. A Florida family purchased an expansive ranch near Vail to break ponies but didn't end up raising horses, instead creating a getaway to fish and hike in the summer, snowshoe and snowmobile in the winter. Between Bozeman and Butte, a 20-acre parcel of land captured the imagination of a couple from the Midwest, who built a modern farmhouse to take in the show nature puts on each evening with a live cast of deer, moose, eagles, mink and sandhill cranes. Near Winter Park a couple designed their home around the view of the Continental Divide with a covered deck that has become their favorite summer spot, ideal for connecting with the great outdoors.

Also this month, artist Craig Forget shares his secrets of creating evocative multi-dimensional art with nature; and we check out four trails in four states that offer something for all levels of hikers.

Finally, we're proud to launch in this issue our Women in Architecture Awards, honoring eight remarkable architects who design a wide range of extraordinary mountain homes in new and interesting ways—including through connecting with their stunning high-country surroundings.

Happy bird watching!

DARLA WORDEN
EDITOR IN CHIEF
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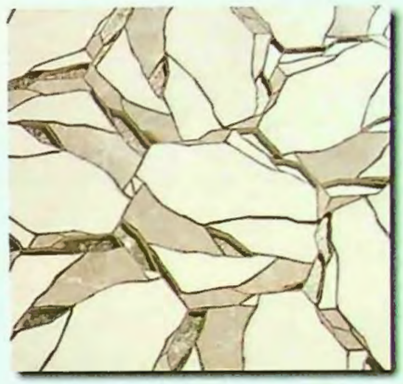

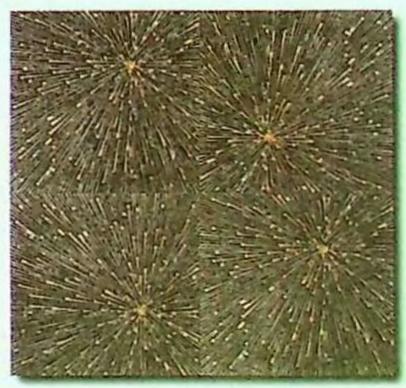

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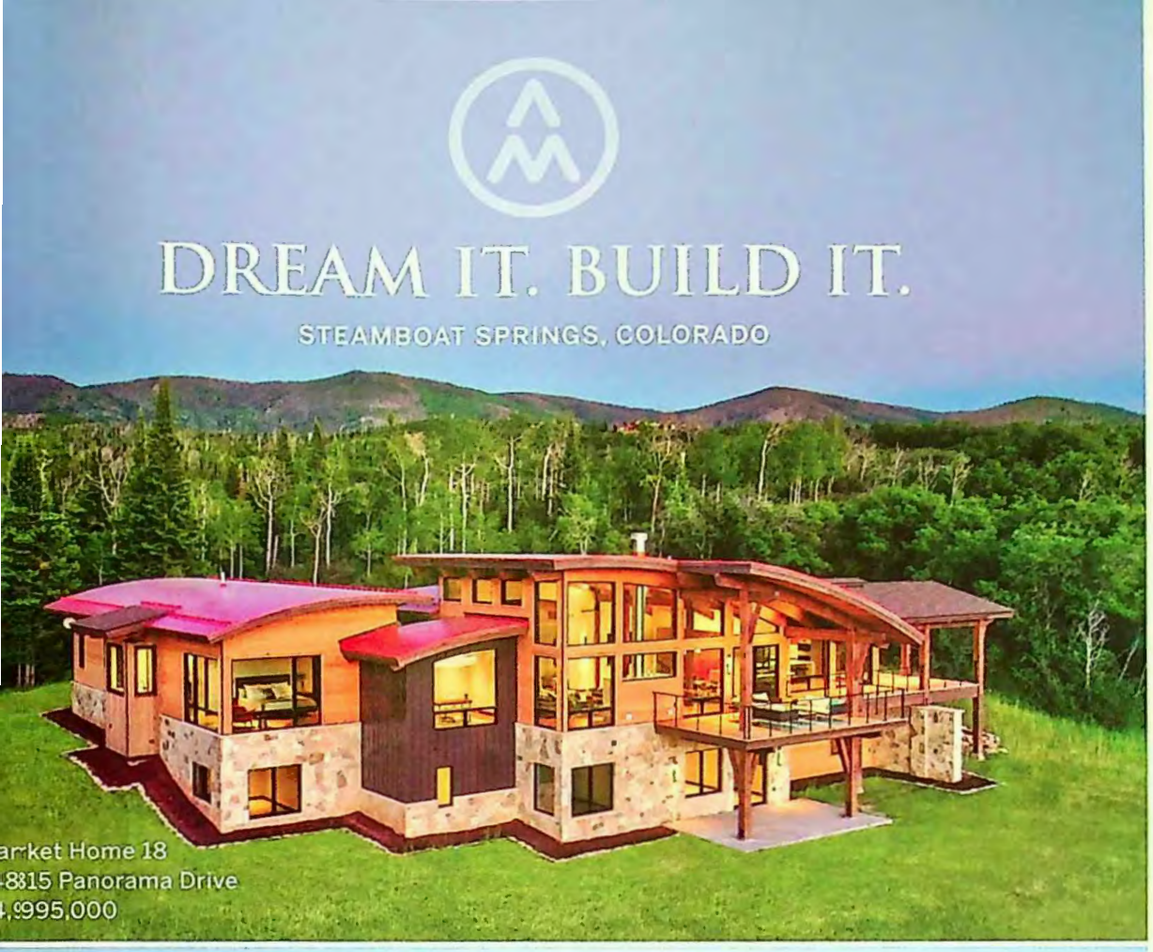

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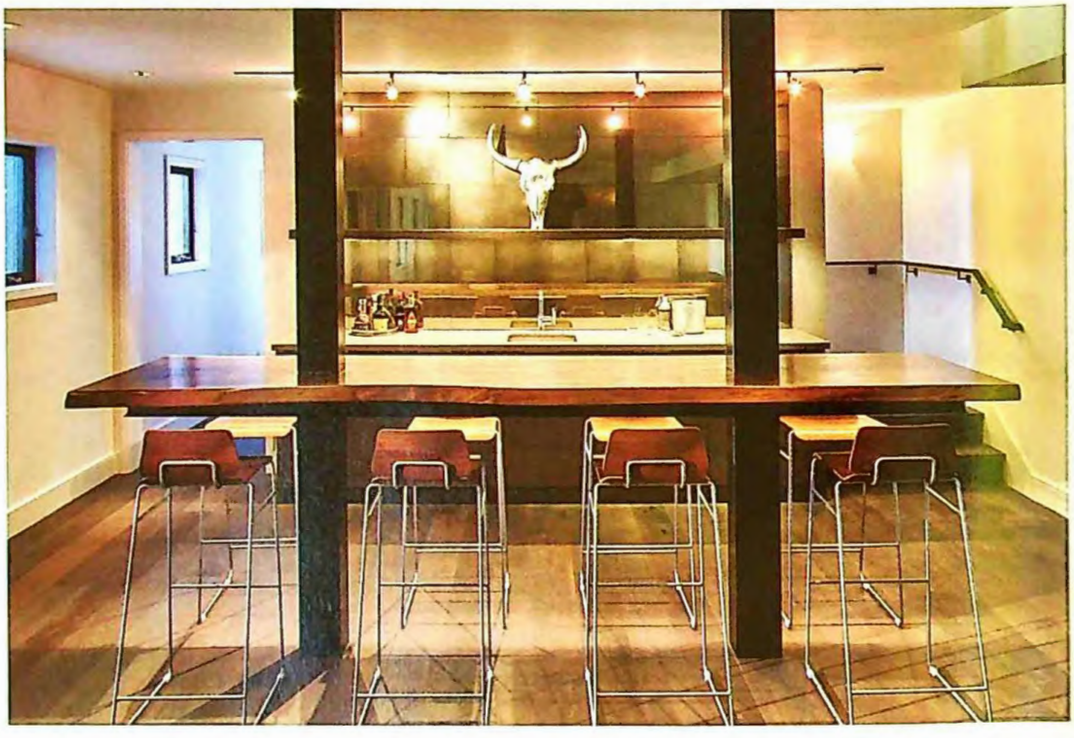

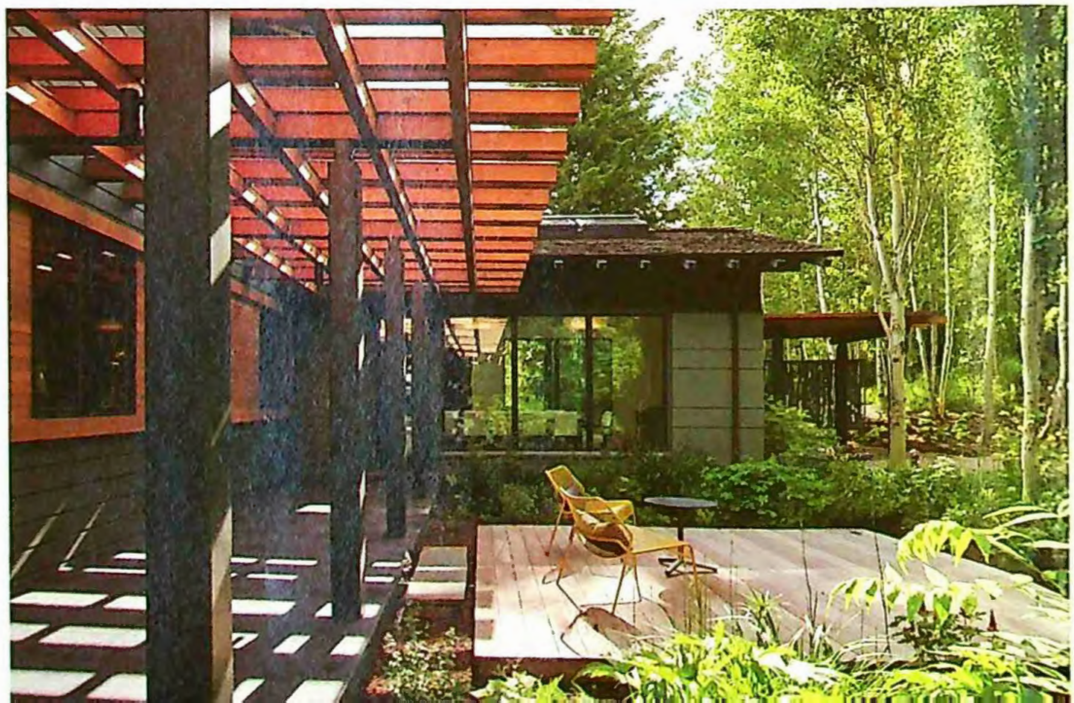

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INTO THE WOOD

A design-world boldface name, Rose Tarlow boasts a place on *Architectural Digest*'s AD100 list of top designers, and clients like Barbara Walters and Oprah, yet her aesthetic leans toward subtlety. From the beginning–opening R. Tarlow Antiques on Melrose Place in 1976–the L.A. design maven has turned her famously sublime taste and uncanny eye for detail toward understated finishes, soft textures, quiet colors and an obsession with craftsmanship. So it's no surprise Tarlow believes outdoor furniture "shouldn't make a statement. I'd like it to look like you'd come across it in the woods," she says. Finding inspiration in the rising moon, Tarlow has crafted a collection combining Art Deco influences with sturdy teak and proprietary fabrics that wins this luscious lounge a spot on our wish list for bringing the indoors out with allure. Rose Tarlow Melrose House Rising Moon lounge chair, price available on request; *rosetarlow.com*.

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STORY **JAMES FARRELL** PHOTOS **CRAIG FORGET**

"PAINTING" WITH NATURE

Craig Forget builds his sculptures entirely with reclaimed wood. The longer the wood sits outside, the darker it gets. Occasional moss or lichen provides shades of green.

Craig Forget's artwork is cut from history. The wood he uses dates as far back as 200 years.

Each carefully selected fragment once held up a roof or supported a fence. Each piece withstood the elements until it could be salvaged and given new life by the Canadian artist's keen eye.

When starting a new piece, Forget doesn't draw a pattern—that would be too restrictive. "I let the wood navigate me," he says. "I can't back up the tracks once I've started." The result speaks for itself: his artwork is organic, not only visually, but literally.

It takes a staggering amount of knowledge, earned over a lifetime of experience, to work this way. For example, Forget knows that old horse fences were made of hardwood, especially white oak. He knows the only place in Ontario you can find elm is in old barns because of the disease Dutch elm. The rarest wood can only be found on south- or west-facing sides of barns, which get the most sun. The wood is red because farmers used an old iron-oxide paint that fades into the silver-gray wood in a particular way. "It's just how the wood weathers," says Forget. "Perfect for fiery sunsets."

He owes much of this knowledge to a prior career as a finish carpenter. He put construction aside in 2010 due to an injury, and turned to artwork. After a >>

"The geometric sculptures are a one-time shot," says Forget. "Once I glue the pieces on, they're permanently there." ABOVE RIGHT: Forget works from his woodshop, which he designed and organized to fit his process. The walls are decorated with his collection of antique farm tools.

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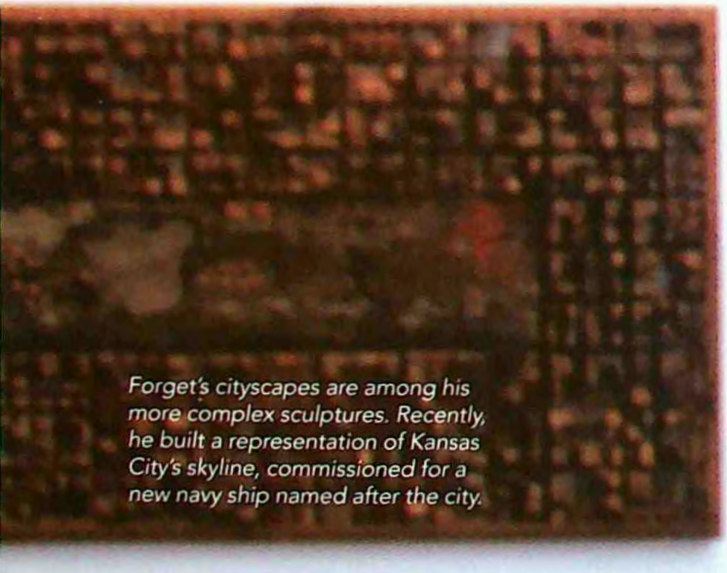

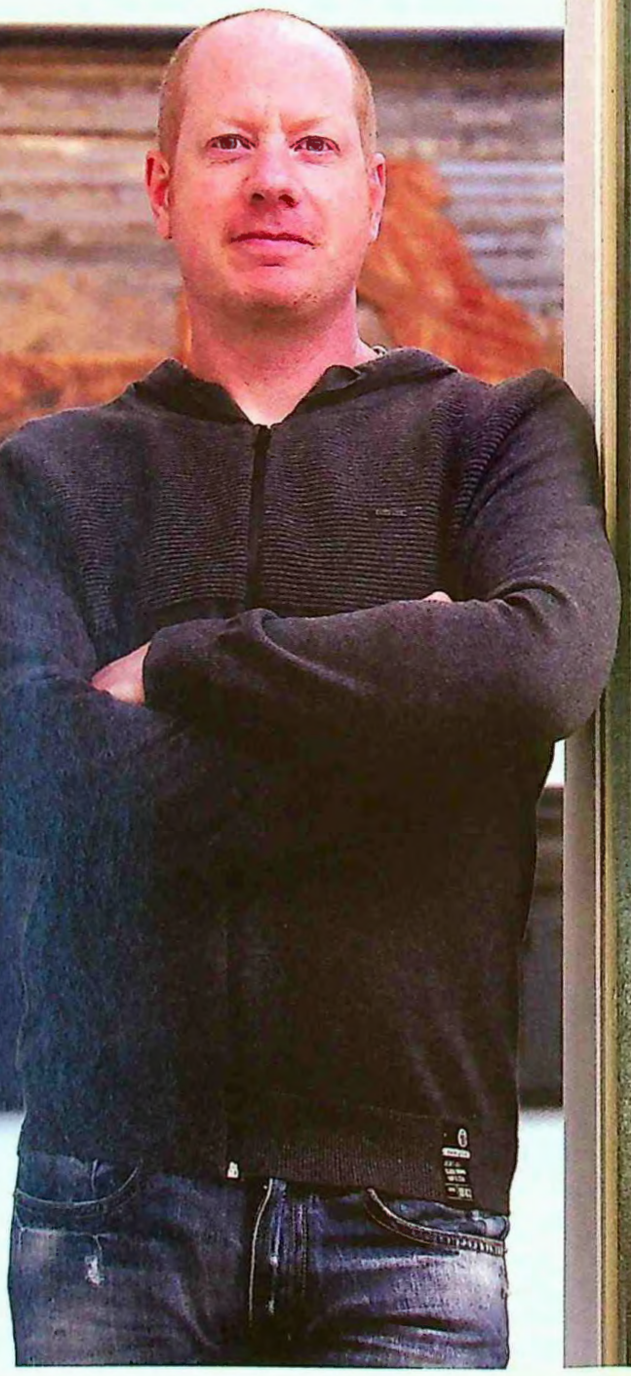

Forget's cityscapes are among his more complex sculptures. Recently, he built a representation of Kansas City's skyline, commissioned for a new navy ship named after the city.

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brief foray into furniture making, he developed his "pallet art," pieces made from vertical strips of wood and oriented so their ends were uneven. They were his first success—and the seed that sprouted into his work today. A friend showed him Etsy.com, and within a year he was living off of his artwork.

Forget's process starts with selecting the wood. Next, he cuts the wood to size with a table saw and arranges the pieces on a frame. He secures the wood with carpenter glue, keeping boards in place with 23-gauge micro pins from a nail-gun while the glue sets. Finally, he applies a water-based sealant to protect the wood. This step alters the color of the wood slightly—and every type of wood reacts differently, so he has to predict how each element will change. The final step is to sand the piece once it dries, and then ship it to the client.

Every step of this process is as environmentally friendly as Forget can make it. From reclaiming the wood, to using low-VOC sealant, to the shipping materials, his studio adds practically no weekly trash or recycling to his household. From beginning to end, down to the last splinter, this is truly a "green" practice. He doesn't even use paint: "Mother nature paints for me," says Forget. ○

craigforget.com

To acquire the raw materials, the barn or building often needs to be disassembled first. "There are people that dismantle them for a living, so usually I buy the wood from them," says Forget. "But sometimes I'll dismantle the barn myself."

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BOZEMAN'S NORDIC BREW WORKS TAPS INTO A CLEAN-LINED SCANDINAVIAN AESTHETIC

WHAT'S ON TAP

STORY **SUZANNE S. BROWN**
PHOTOS **AUDREY HALL**

Natural light streams into the main dining room of Nordic Brew Works. Tables are topped in white marble; the clean-lined chairs are from Beaufurn.

When Matt Paine decided to create a brew pub in Bozeman, Montana, a town already saturated with them, he threw out the standard way of thinking about this popular drinking-and-dining experience. He wasn't interested in dark beer, dark interiors and industrial design.

"We were missing a place for people who wanted something completely different," says Paine, who runs a real estate development and investment company. "Beers lighter in alcohol and style, like pilsners and lighter lagers. And we wanted the same thing with the interior. I'm a big fan of Scandinavian design and simplicity. I like clean lines, brighter colors, an optimistic feel with a lot of natural light."

They named the taproom and restaurant at the Market at Ferguson Farm, on Bozeman's west side, Nordic Brew Works because Paine reasoned that Bozeman isn't that much lower in latitude than Scandinavia. And the type of activities enjoyed in both places—skiing and hockey in winter, fishing in the summer—give them more things in common.

From the lounge areas with modern furnishings on each side of a see-through fireplace near the entrance to a dreamy blue-and-white mural that covers the wall alongside a staircase leading from the main bar and restaurant to an upstairs dining loft, the space invites guests to explore and linger. Envi Interior Design Studio of Bozeman did both architecture and the interior of the restaurant and bar, which has become popular for its >>

ABOVE LEFT: A double-sided fireplace is the focal point of a lounge area for enjoying craft cocktails or beers with friends. The modern chairs and tables are from West Elm's commercial division. ABOVE RIGHT: Steel stools in the upstairs loft are from Bozeman's MFGR Designs.

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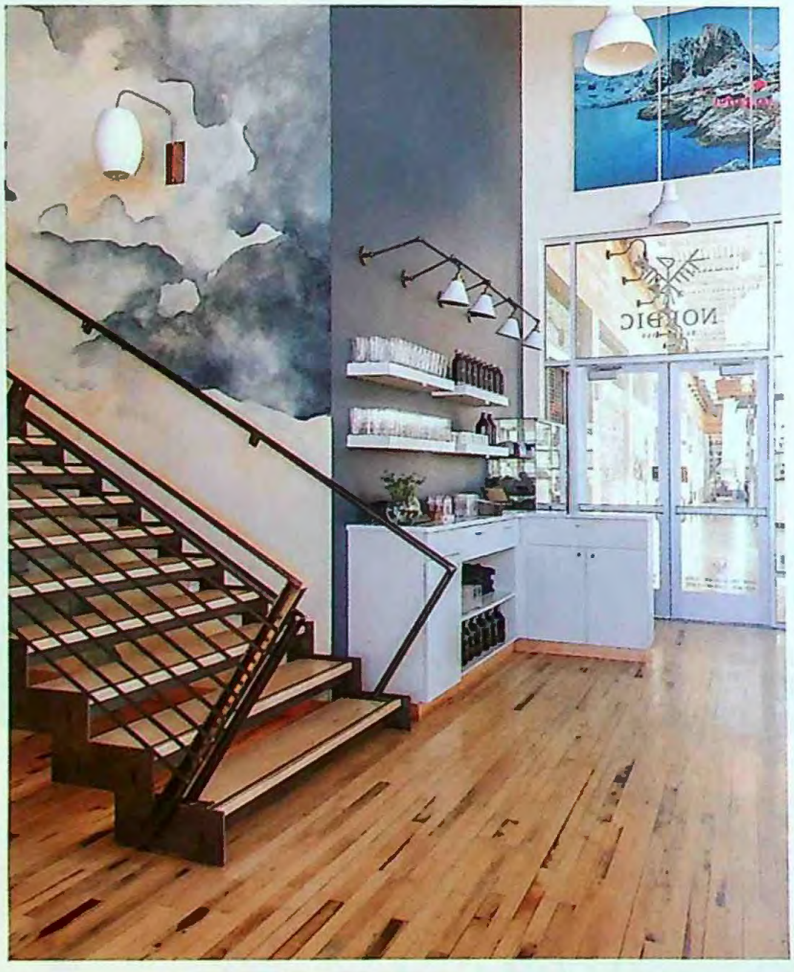
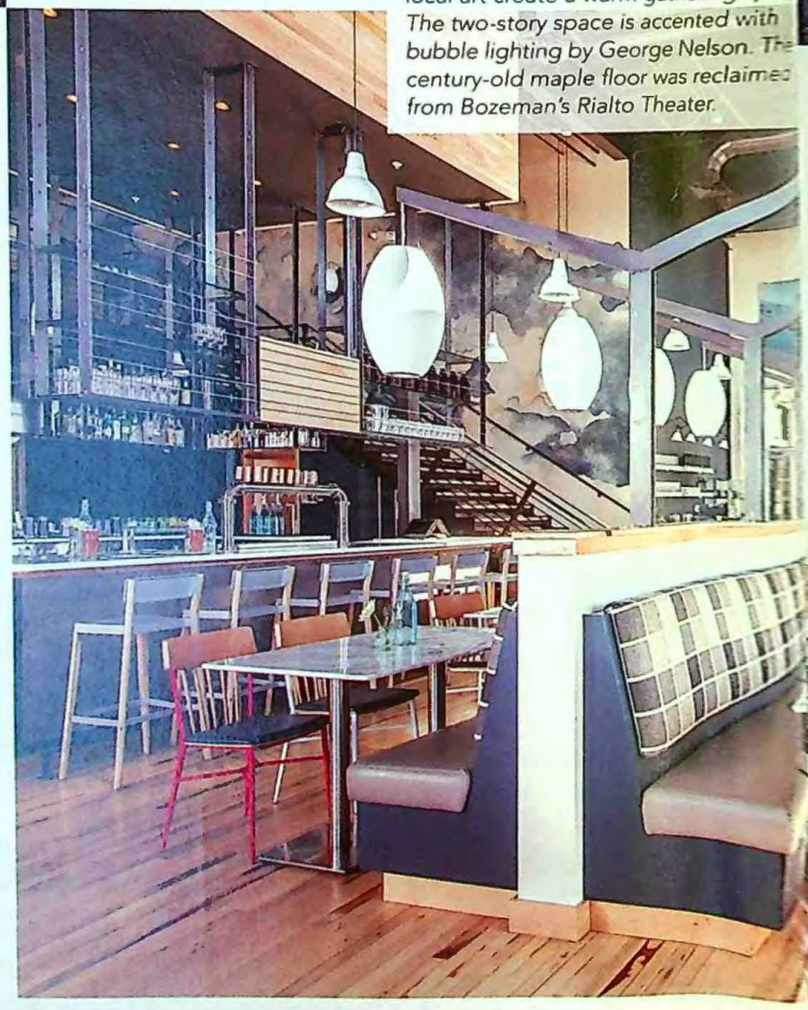
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Eight beers are on tap daily at Nordic Brew Works, their red tap handles a contras to the white wall. Cozy furnishings and local art create a warm gathering spot. The two-story space is accented with bubble lighting by George Nelson. The century-old maple floor was reclaimed from Bozeman's Rialto Theater.





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wood-fired oven pizza, grass-fed burgers, wine and cocktails, as well as its beer, crafted next door at Polar Brewing.

Envi's founder and principal Susie Hoffman, who has designed other brew pubs and restaurants, was inspired by photography of the Lofoten Islands off the coast of Norway, particularly the rich blues of the ocean, the red fishing cabins that dot the shoreline, clouds and snow. These elements were the springboard for the deep blue of the walls and metal trim, the white Caesarstone bar top and marble table tops, plus the red accents on dining chairs and the beer tap handles. Scandinavian-inspired furnishings and lighting followed suit, including iconic white bubble lights from George Nelson.

Warming up the space is the maple floor, reclaimed from the Rialto Theater in Bozeman, and maple treads on the distinctive laser-cut steel staircase. "The steel can be raw and exposed, but elegant," says Pete Costanti of MFGR Designs, a Bozeman multidisciplinary design firm that crafted the staircase as well as shelving, metalwork, stools and even menu holders for the project. "It's a clean, modern, re-thought space," Costanti says of Nordic. "Like the design for the floating shelves at the bar. It's all about being light and delicate."

Paine says Nordic Brew Works has helped cement the Market at Ferguson Farm as a shopping and entertainment hub. "People tell us they now have a place to swing by on their way home from work or after fishing the Gallatin all day. Or they'll ride their bike, fill up a growler and go home to watch a movie." ○

BELOW LEFT: Laser-cut steel accents the side of the staircase created by MFGR Designs; the storage bin holds wood for Nordic's pizza oven. BELOW RIGHT: A cloud-like mural covers the wall thats leads to the upstairs dining room.

nordicbrewworks.com

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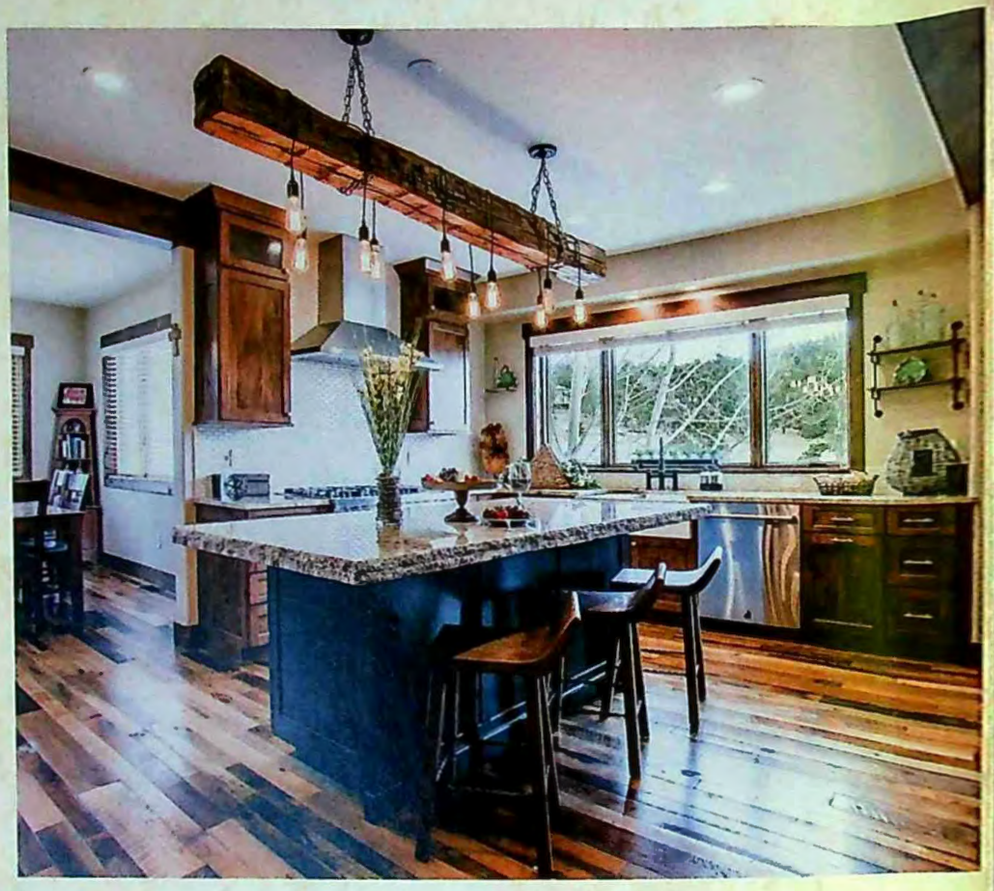

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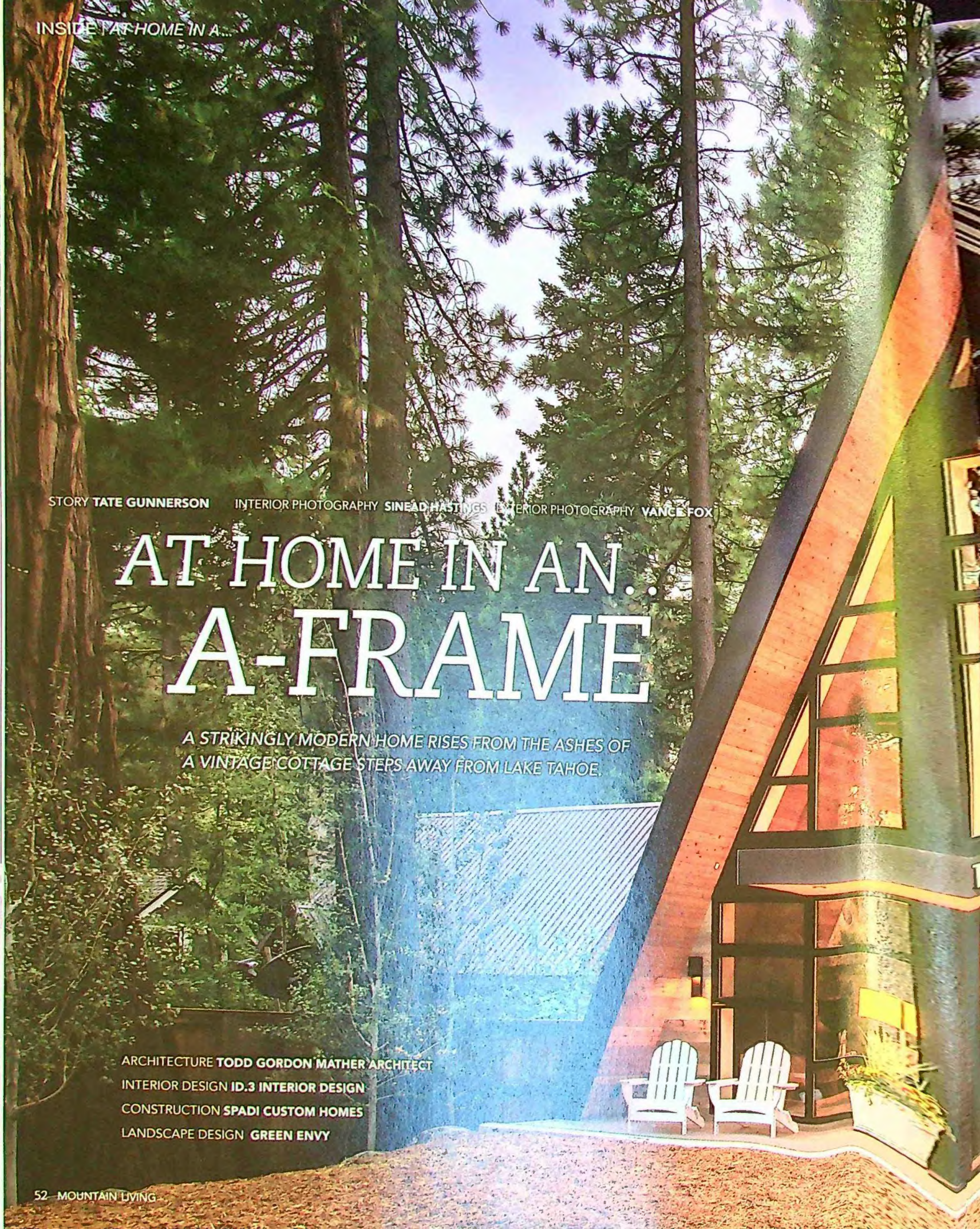

STORY **TATE GUNNERSON** INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY **SINEAD HASTINGS** EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY **VANCE FOX**

AT HOME IN AN... A-FRAME

A STRIKINGLY MODERN HOME RISES FROM THE ASHES OF A VINTAGE COTTAGE STEPS AWAY FROM LAKE TAHOE.

ARCHITECTURE **TODD GORDON MATHER ARCHITECT**
INTERIOR DESIGN **ID.3 INTERIOR DESIGN**
CONSTRUCTION **SPADI CUSTOM HOMES**
LANDSCAPE DESIGN **GREEN ENVY**

Leafy trees and sculptural shrubs disguise the most prominent of the new A-frame's dormers from passersby. When the shades are open, however, the beautiful interior is on full display.

Just as a wildfire clears new room for growth, the accidental blaze that destroyed Carol Bastek's charming vintage cottage in Tahoe City made space for something new, namely a strikingly modern A-frame designed by architect Todd Mather. "The A-frame's bold, sharp exterior belies the inside, which is cozy and inviting," Carol says.

Replacing the cottage with an A-frame was the idea of Carol's son, Scott. An avid skier, he envisioned a rustic retreat away from his home in San Francisco. The thought also appealed to Carol, who resides in New Jersey.

Mather urged them to reconsider, pointing to the architectural style's inherent limitations, which include a prominent roofline, tight interior spaces and a lack of natural daylight. But Carol and Scott were undeterred, so Mather began tinkering with ways to improve upon the classic form.

One example is the metal roof's alternating "cap and pan" panel design, which was inspired by a custom "Squaw Valley USA" bar code Mather generated online—a nod to Scott's favorite ski resort. When it snows, the pans fill up, and the roof resembles black and white piano keys. "As a musician, I think it's so >>

ABOVE LEFT: A patterned rug by Jaipur Living coordinates perfectly with the dark-blue sofa and loveseat by American Leather in front of the rustic stone fireplace. ABOVE RIGHT: A custom wooden vanity with a white farmhouse sink fosters a rustic vibe without sacrificing functionality.

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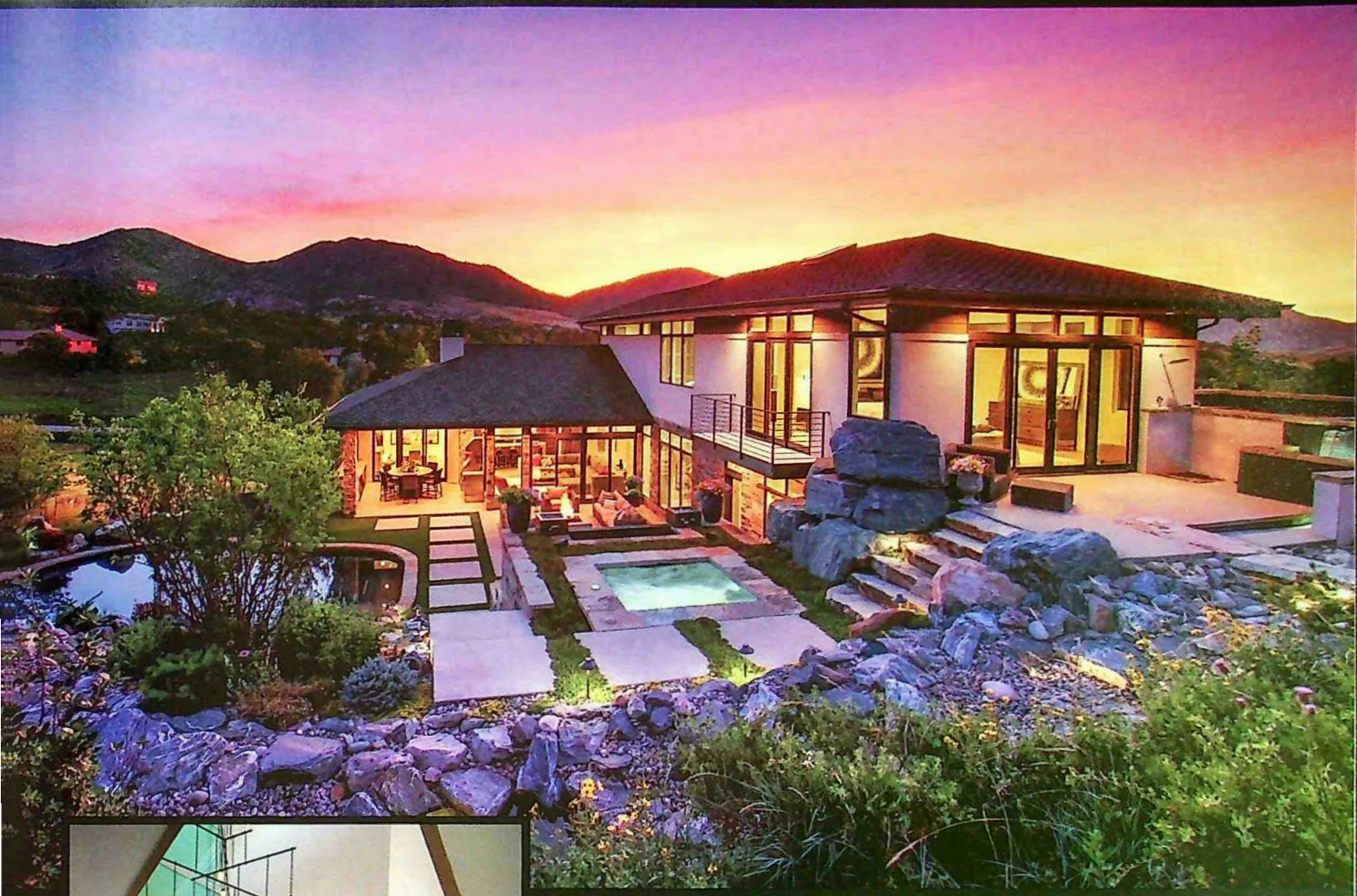
TOP: One of several throughout the home, a large dormer creates plenty of space for a well-appointed kitchen with classic white cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances by KitchenAid. BOTTOM: A dormer interrupts the knotty cedar ceiling in the bedroom, which is furnished with a wooden bed and nightstands from Blue Dot Furniture



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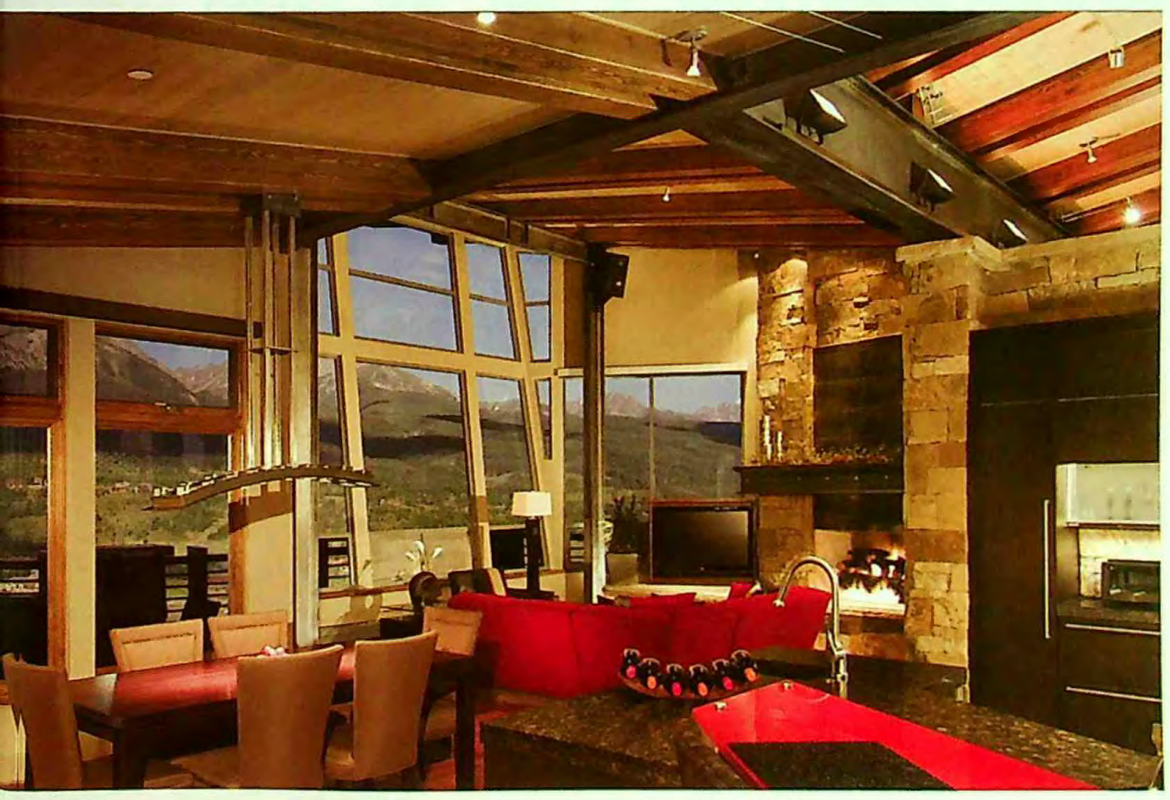
damn cool and unexpected and whimsical," Mather says. "If you're looking at the side of an A-frame, all you see is roof, so I had to make it super-special."

That's not the only thing that makes it unique. To create more interior space, Mather added several barnwood-clad dormers outfitted with large windows that flood the interior with natural daylight. For example, the bedrooms have boxy dormers that allow you to sit up in bed—one a full wall, the other a window box that Mather compares to an eyeball. And the dining area features a two-story dormer that frames a picture-perfect view of an aspen tree.

Interior designers Shannon Barter and Brady McClintock collaborated closely with Mather on the project, marrying Scott's desire for a countrified retreat with Carol's more traditional leanings. In the living room, for example, a contemporary sofa and chair covered in navy-blue leather face a massive stone wood-burning fireplace that offers warmth and ambience on frigid winter nights. "The blue is >>

THIS PAGE: A tall dormer creates a sense of grandeur in the dining area, which is open to the kitchen and living room. Balustrades in differing colors and lengths, collar ties at different heights and Mondrian-inspired windows by Andersen add an unexpected sense of whimsy.



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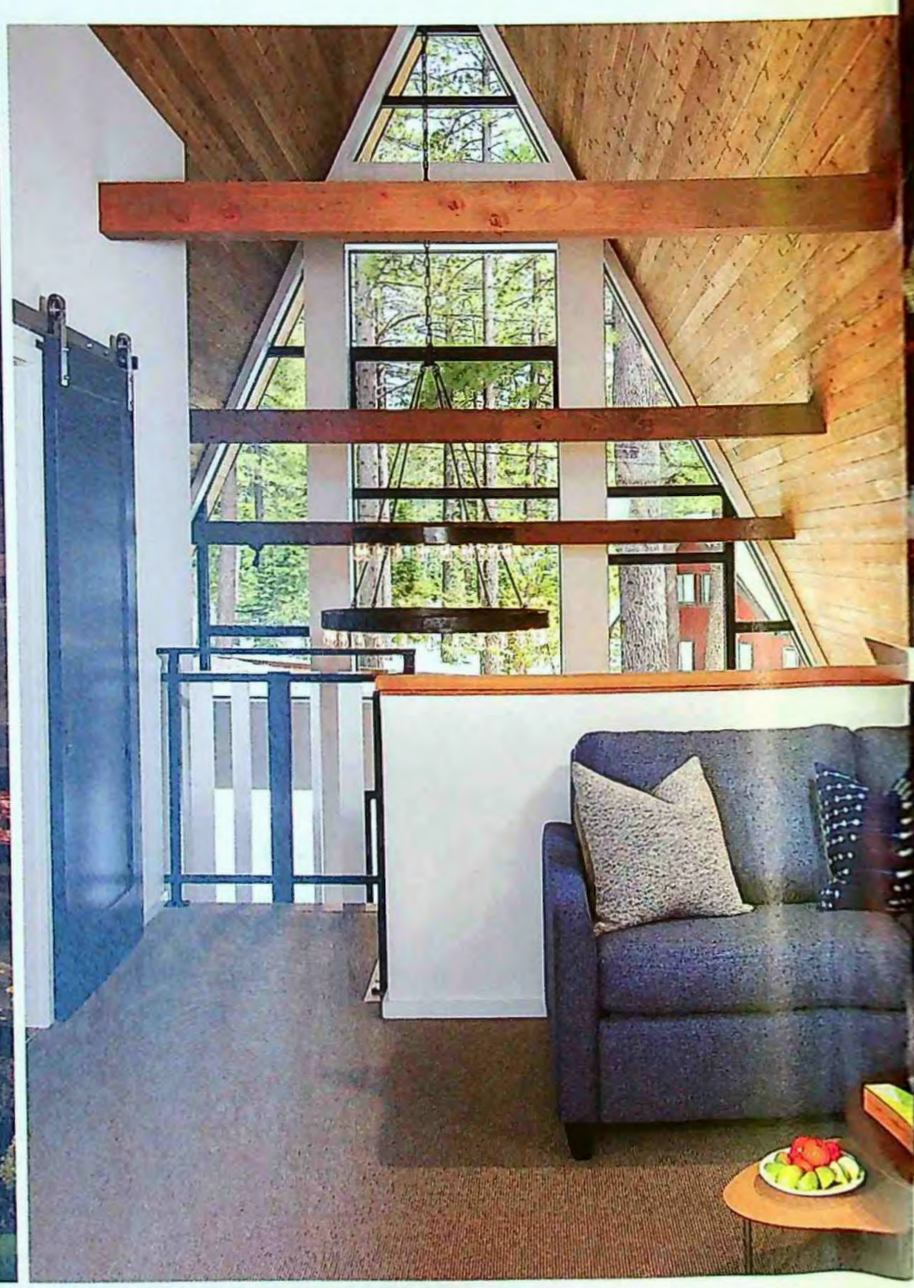
like a vein that connects everything," Barter says. "It's predictable and comfortable."

Indeed, the designers repeated the hue on the island in the classic white kitchen and on several of the wood balusters on the curvaceous steel stairway to the second-floor loft area. Builder Brett Spadi and his crew cut the balusters into different sizes and painted them white, black and blue—an homage to the bar-code-inspired roof. "It's incredibly unique," Spadi says. "This house has a soul."

That's especially true at night. Staggered in height, the home's four collar ties contain an illuminated channel that reflects off of the knotty cedar ceiling, and the tiered iron chandelier likewise glows through the Mondrian-inspired windows.

Carol plans to spend about six weeks each summer at the A-frame, and it's a weekend escape for Scott. When it's warm outside, they often throw open the double doors and enjoy the intoxicating smell of cedar and pine drifting in with the breeze. "You have this curious sense of being outside," Carol says. "It's absolutely beautiful." ○

BELOW LEFT: Thanks to a custom tiered iron chandelier by Newton Gallery from The Lighting Showroom, and an illuminated channel concealed within the collar ties, the A-frame appears to glow from the street. BELOW RIGHT: Located at the top of the stairs, a loft area offers additional seating and verdant vistas.



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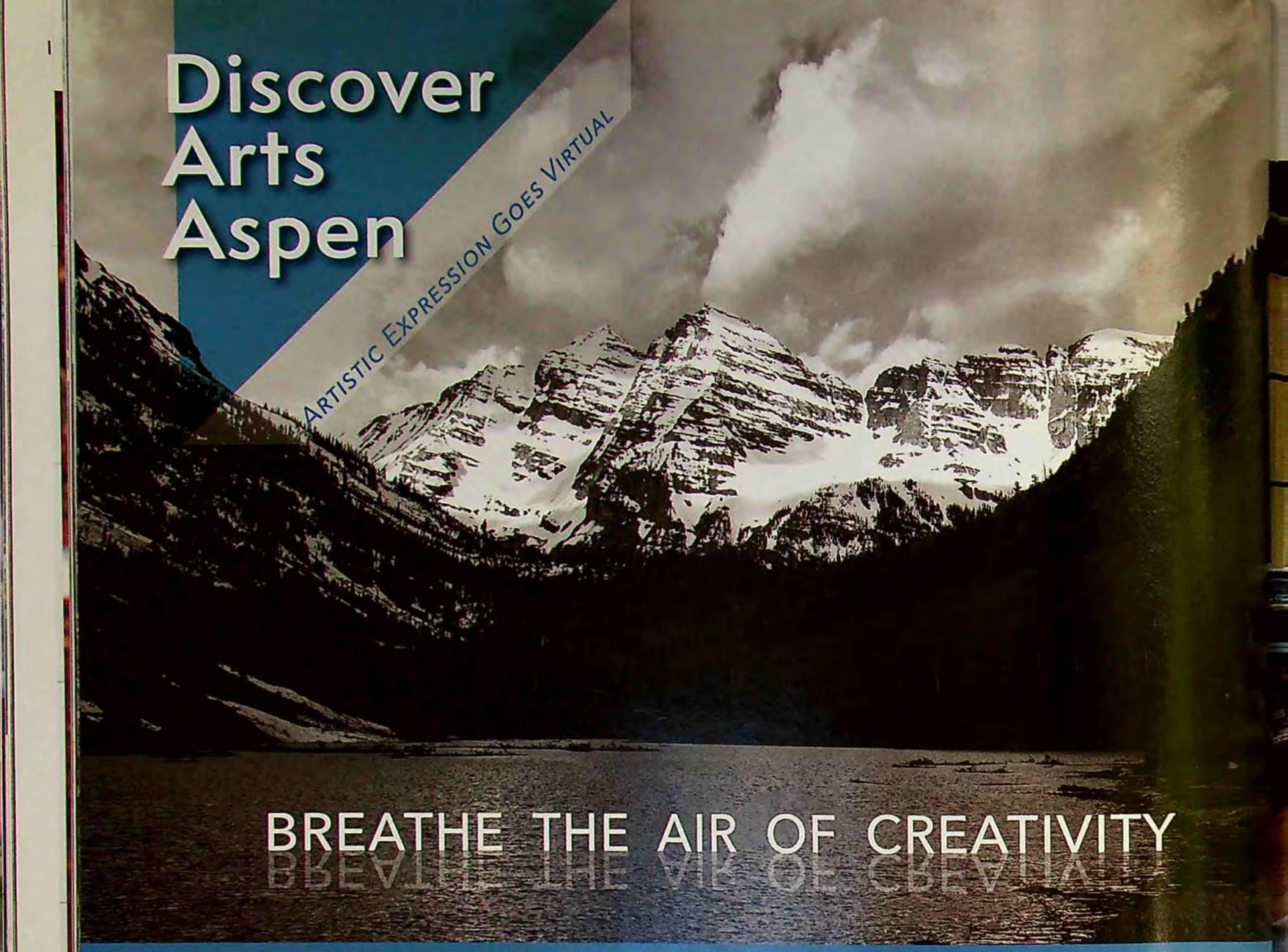

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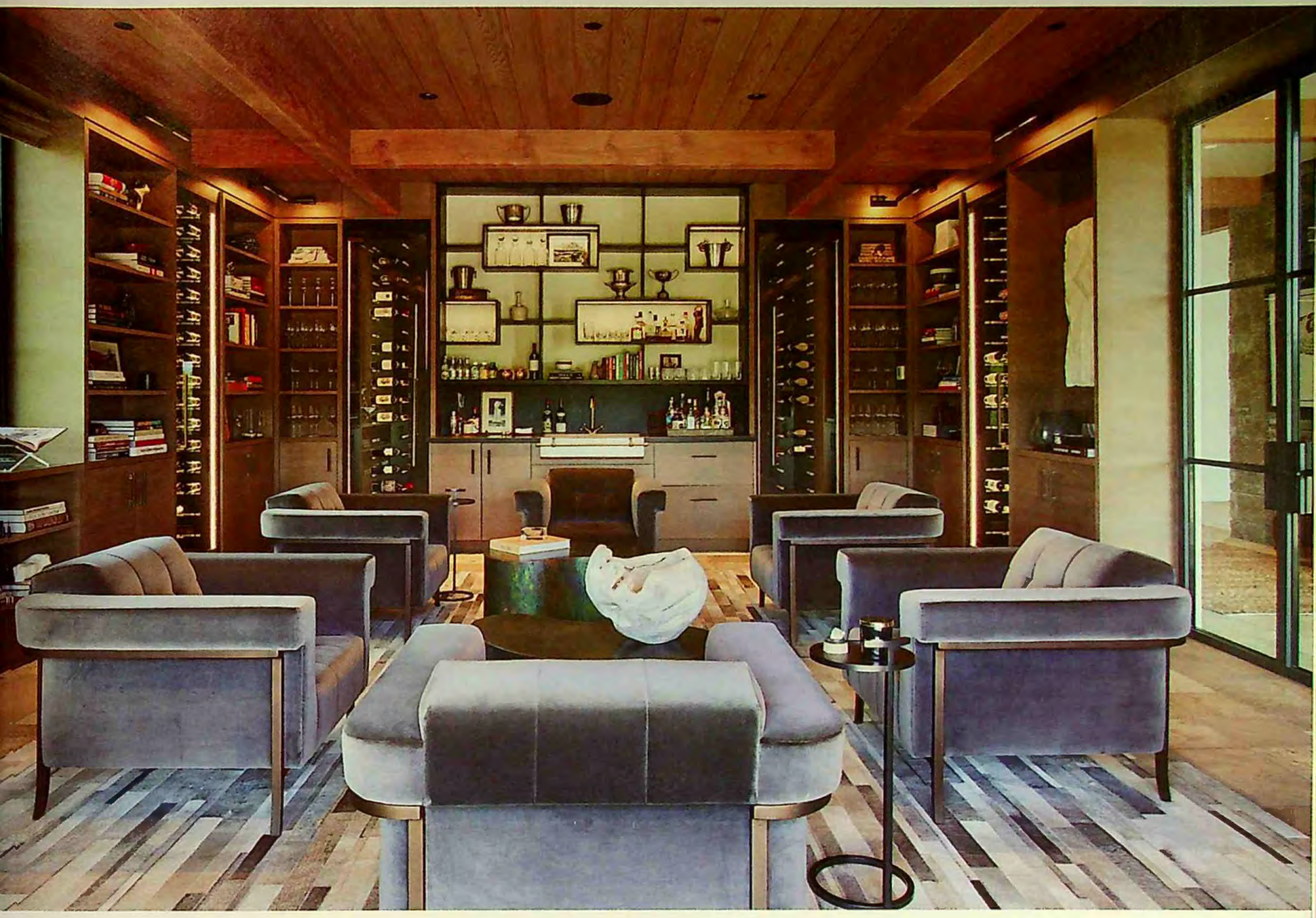

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STORY **ML STAFF**

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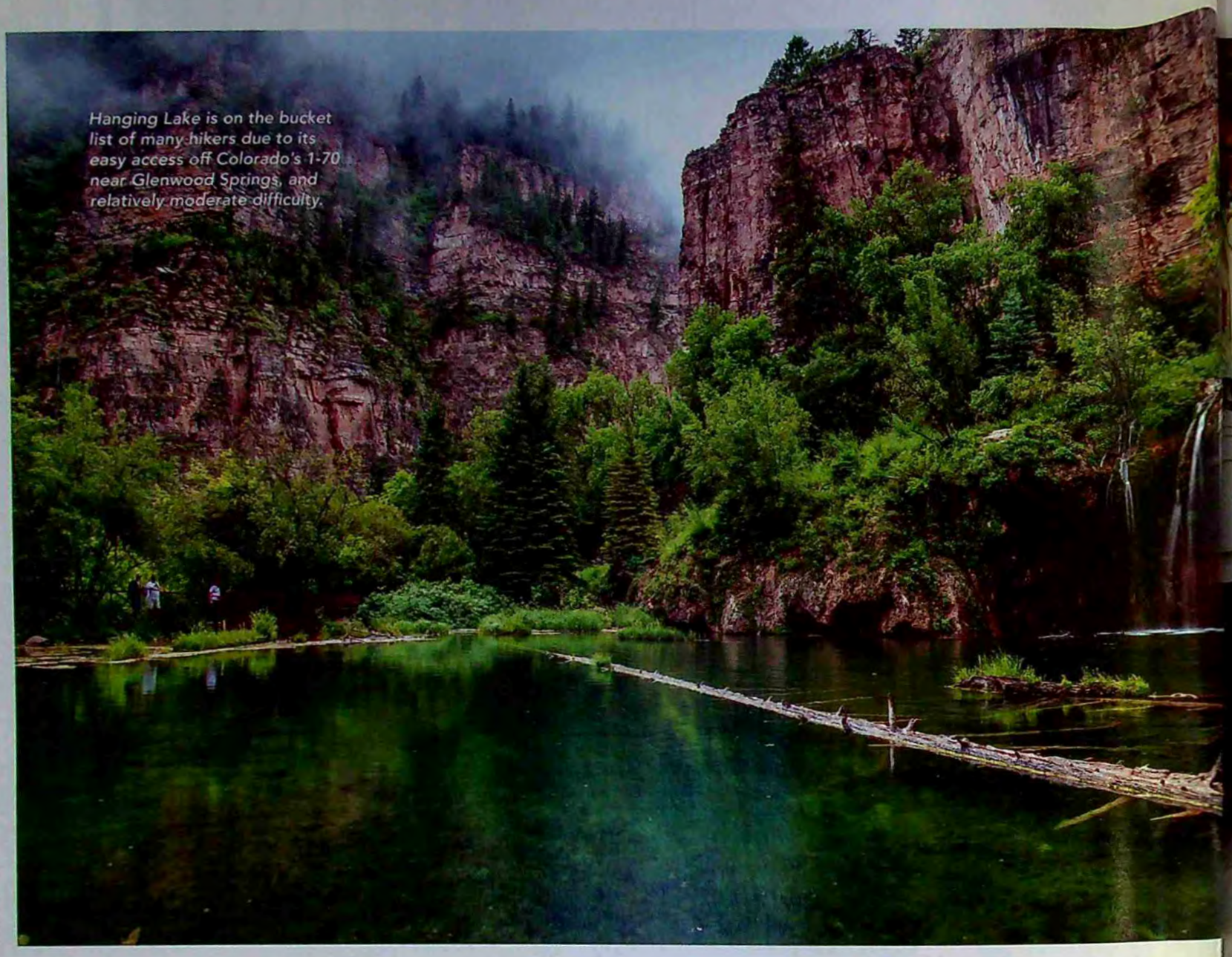
A Rubicon Trail in Lake Tahoe follows the shoreline of the emerald water. The hike is 9 to 16.4 miles depending on where you start.



Hanging Lake is on the bucket list of many hikers due to its easy access off Colorado's I-70 near Glenwood Springs, and relatively moderate difficulty.

Hanging Lake near Glenwood Springs, Colorado

This short, steep-in-spots, scenic trail rises from the bottom of Glenwood Canyon through Deadhorse Creek Canyon to Hanging Lake, a National Natural Landmark. The trail follows and crosses (via seven bridges) a mountain stream and features two waterfalls. Depending on your pace, it can take from 40 minutes to 1.5 hours to get to the top, but there are several benches and invitingly flat rocks to rest in the shade of tall spruce, cedar and fir trees. Just before the top, steep stairs are carved into the canyon's cliff rock. The trail ends in a boardwalk around the lake (no swimming or boating in the lake). A short offshoot from the trail leads to Spouting Rock, where a waterfall gushes out of a sheer cliff wall.

THE SCOOP

DIFFICULTY Moderate, but some parts of the trail are steep and rocky. **LENGTH OF TRAIL** 2.4 miles, out and back. **INSIDER INFO** A permit is required for entry and can be obtained at the self-park at the trailhead/Hanging Lake Rest Area. $12/person. Currently only 128 permits are issued per day, so plan to come early or late. Also, it's quite narrow in places, making social distancing challenging. **HOW TO GET THERE** Take the Hanging Lake exit off I-70. **GOOD TO KNOW** Drive to Glenwood Springs (10 miles) to swim in mineral hot springs pools at historic Glenwood Hot Springs Resort or the recently opened Iron Mountain Hot Springs. >>

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Jenny Lake Loop

Grand Teton National Park, near Jackson, Wyoming

This wide, well-marked trail through dense forests and high meadows offers jaw-dropping views of crystalline Jenny Lake and the Tetons. It is a popular hike, so you'll want hit the trail early (8 a.m.): fewer people, easier to park. You'll have a greater probability of spotting wildlife—deer, foxes, marmots and beavers. There's also a serious possibility of seeing moose at the aptly named Moose Ponds. If you're traveling with children or planning this hike as part of a family reunion, some members of your party can hike around the lake while others take the ferry across (and bring a picnic), walk to Hidden Falls and return on the ferry.

THE SCOOP

DIFFICULTY Moderate. **LENGTH OF TRAIL** 7.7 miles, loop. Add about 2 miles for detours to Inspiration Point and Hidden Falls. **INSIDER INFO** You'll need a Grand Teton National Parks pass to access this trail. Spend the night under the stars in a remote campsite (reserve ahead) or at the upscale Jenny Lake Lodge. **HOW TO GET THERE** Take the South Jenny Lake Junction road to the Jenny Lake Trailhead. **GOOD TO KNOW** Escape the crowds with a visit to the nearby Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve to hike around the indigo-blue waters of Phelps Lake—enjoying views of both the Tetons and Death Canyon. >>

Whether you spend the night nearby or make the short drive from Jackson, hikers will be immersed in the solitude of Grand Teton National Park.

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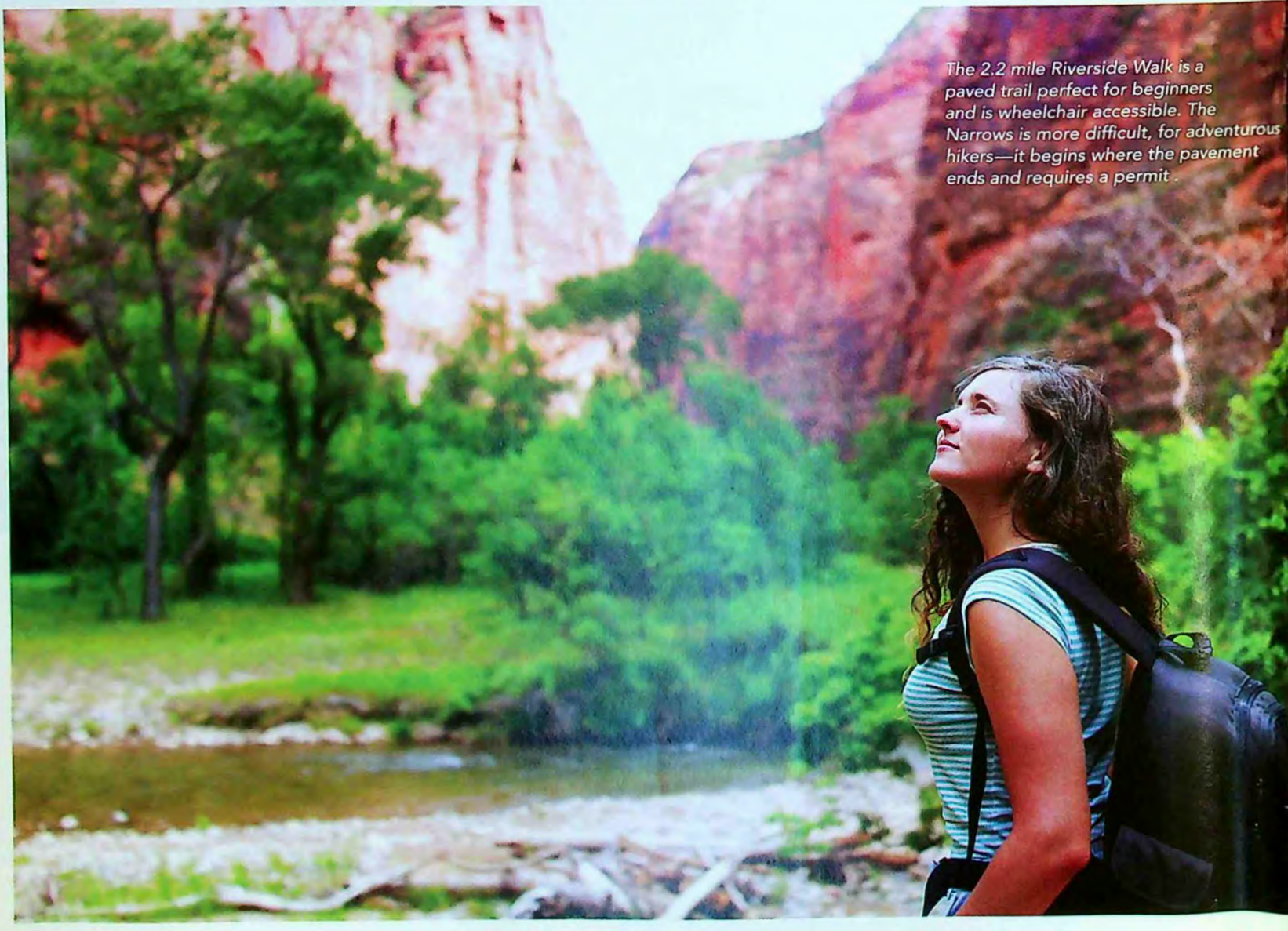
Riverside Walk Zion, Utah

This is a fairly level, paved trail that's an easy walk along the burbling Virgin River with its deep green pools, where you can sit and take in the views. Mosses and ferns grow right next to desert cacti, and hanging gardens spring from natural arches in the canyon's rock walls. Majestic cliffs in subtle shades of red and brown rise up like skyscrapers. The paved walkway ends at the mouth of the Narrows—one of the nation's deepest and longest slot canyons. The Narrows hike is through water—sometimes ankle-high, sometimes waist-high. If you're adventurous enough to venture into the Narrows, change into water-hiking shoes and bring a walking stick. You can hike the first few miles of the Narrows without a permit (the entire trail is 16 miles, takes two days and requires a permit). The water is cold, even in summer; the greener it is, the deeper it is.

THE SCOOP

DIFFICULTY Great for beginners. Wheelchair accessible. **LENGTH OF TRAIL** 2.2 miles, out and back. **INSIDER INFO** Dramatic lighting and views—especially in early morning and evening, the best times to visit. **HOW TO GET THERE** Take the Zion Park shuttle to the last stop, #9. **GOOD TO KNOW** Get a permit to hike deeper than 10 miles into the Narrows. Renting the proper gear will keep you dry and comfortable: waterproof pants, dry pack, neoprene socks and water boots. >>



The 2.2 mile Riverside Walk is a paved trail perfect for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. The Narrows is more difficult, for adventurous hikers—it begins where the pavement ends and requires a permit.

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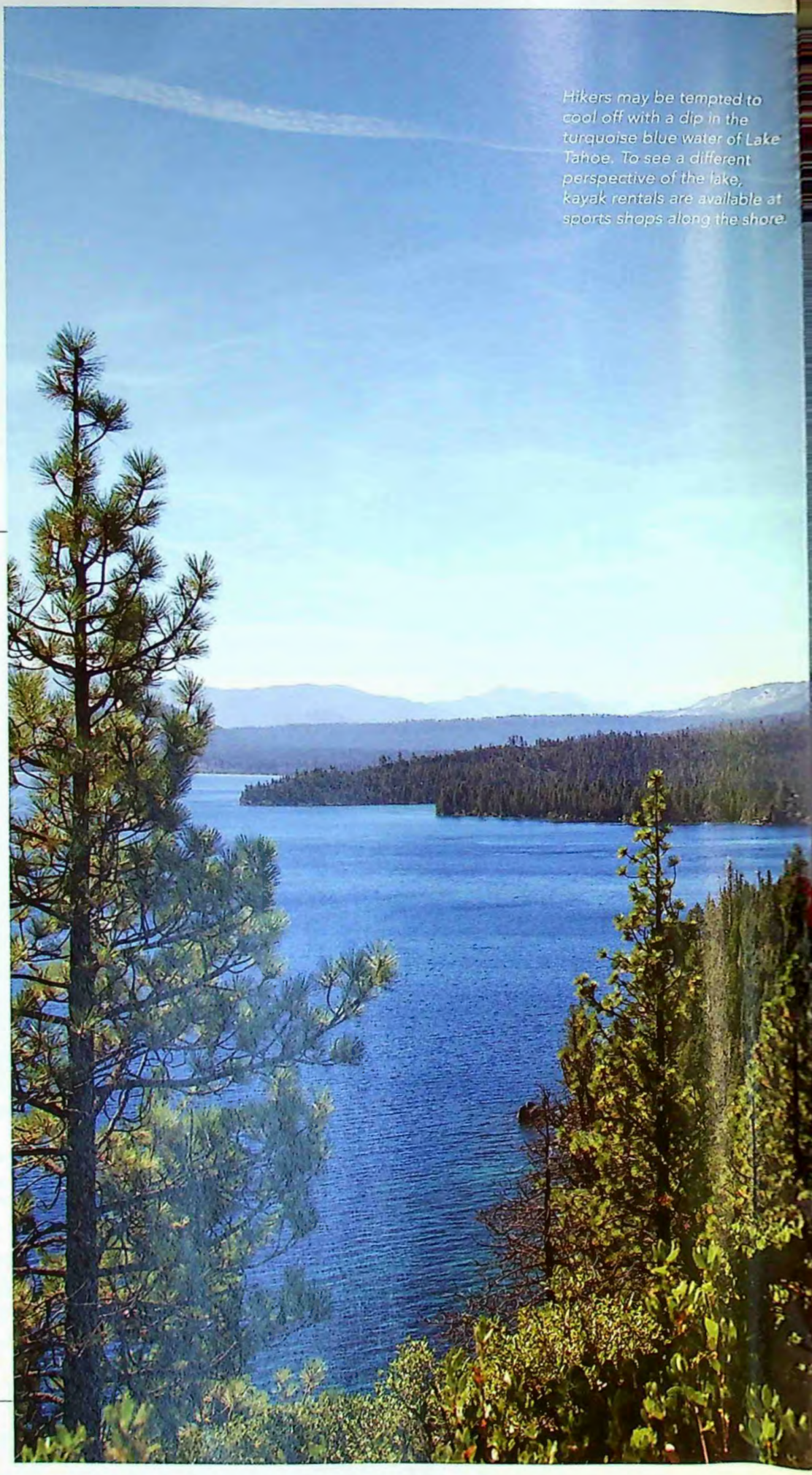
Rubicon Trail

Lake Tahoe, California



Hikers may be tempted to cool off with a dip in the turquoise blue water of Lake Tahoe. To see a different perspective of the lake, kayak rentals are available at sports shops along the shore.

The picturesque hike between the historic Vikingsholm Estate and D.L. Bliss State Park connects South Lake Tahoe's rocky promontories and sandy coves. Parts of the trail are shaded by towering ponderosa pines. Mountain dogwood and black cottonwood grow along the stream feeding the lake, and you'll encounter meadows filled with columbine, lupine and tiny wild roses.

Eagles and ospreys circle overhead while sleek mergansers dive under the impossibly blue water to spear their next meal. Pack your swimsuit: The high alpine lakes—Loon, Spider, Fawn and Miller—are perfect for a cool and refreshing dip. Buy a license (online) to fish for rainbow, lake and brown trout.

THE SCOOP

DIFFICULTY Moderate, with some steep drop-offs and sometimes-slippery granite steps. **LENGTH OF TRAIL** 9 miles to 16.4 miles, depending on your starting point, out and back. **INSIDER INFO** The most popular trailheads are at D.L. Bliss State Park and Emerald Bay State Park. $10/vehicle day use fee. Parking lots fill up by 8:30 a.m. **HOW TO GET THERE** From South Lake Tahoe, follow the signs to D.L. Bliss State Park. **GOOD TO KNOW** Rent a kayak and paddle out to the stone ruins of a 19th-century teahouse perched atop Fannette Island in Emerald Bay.

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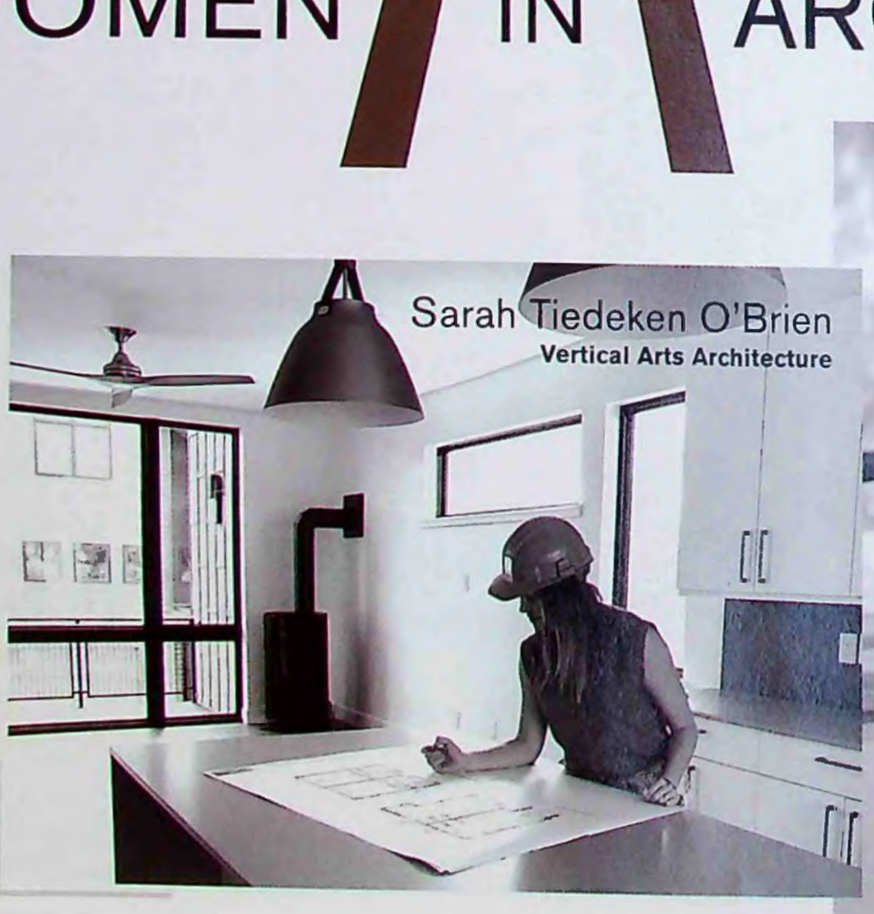
Erica Delak
Charles Cunniffe Architects

Anne Mooney
Sparano + Mooney Architecture

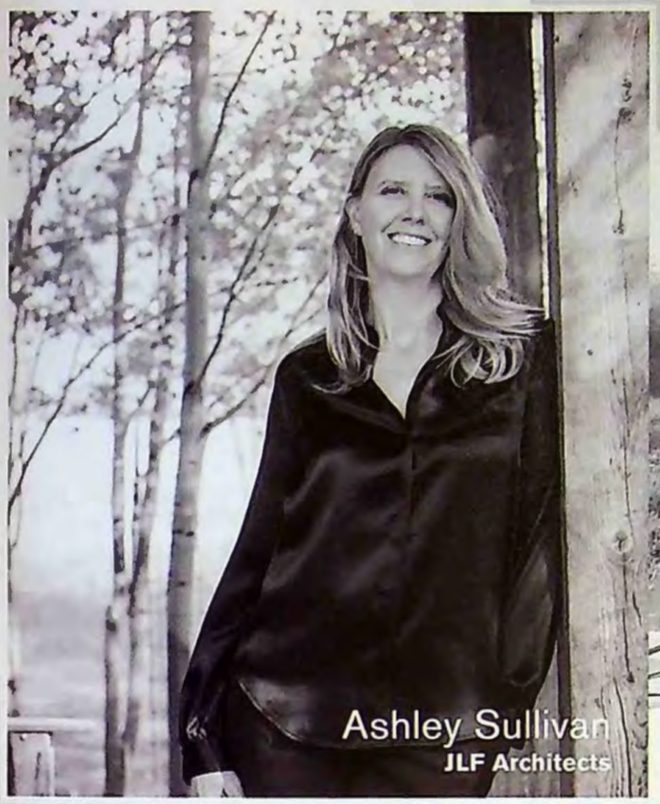
WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

INTERVIEWS **LAURA BEAUSIRE AND IRENE RAWLINGS**



Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien
Vertical Arts Architecture

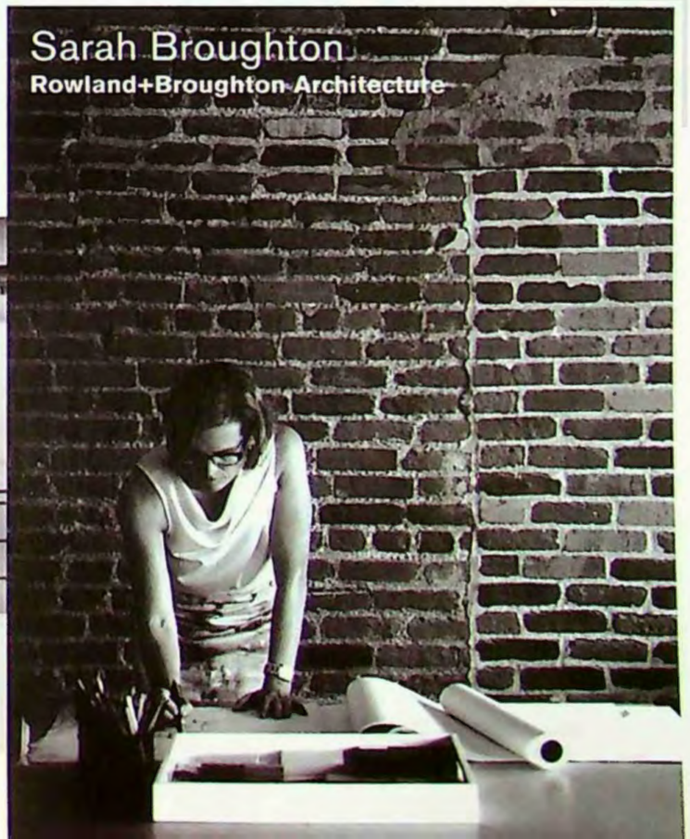
Clare Walton
Walton Architecture + Engineering



CHANGING LIVES ONE BUILDING AT A TIME

Like a number of pre-WWII careers in the U.S., architecture was considered a "gentleman's profession." Today, women account for nearly half the students in architecture school in the U.S. and in the past 20 years the number of women taking licensing exams has increased nearly 50 percent.

To honor female architects working in the Mountain West, *Mountain Living* invited homeowners, architects, designers and photographers to send us nominations for those women who are creating a wide range of mountain homes in new and interesting ways. Our team of judges selected eight winners for our inaugural Women in Architecture awards. Please join us as we applaud them in the following pages. >>



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, AUDREY HALL; JACK SNOW; COURTESY ROWLAND+BROUGHTON; COLTON STIEFLER

SPARANO + MOONEY ARCHITECTURE, Salt Lake City, Utah; Los Angeles, California, sparanomooney.com

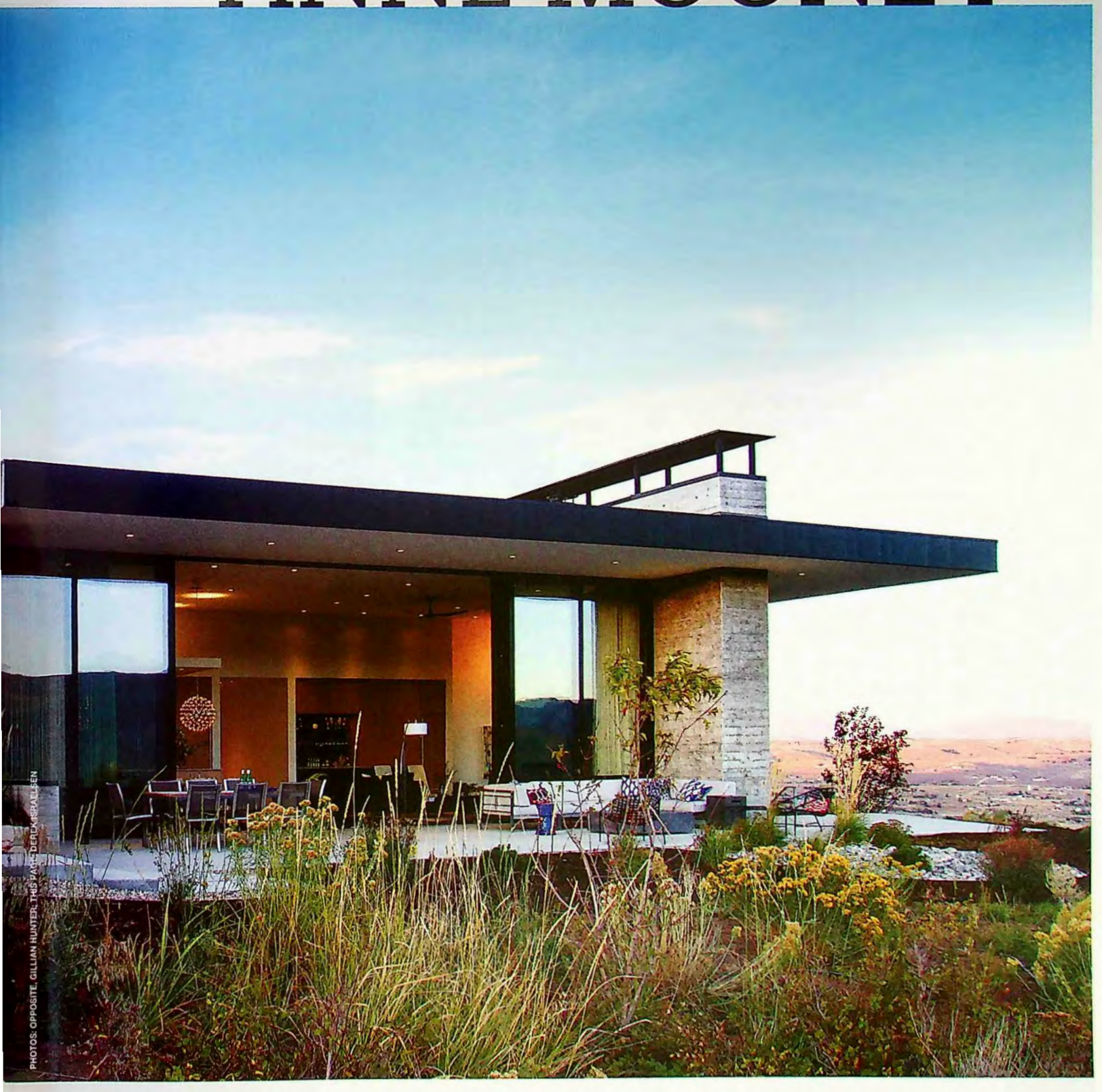
Co-founder of the firm that bears her name, Anne Mooney didn't know architecture was an option until she enrolled in a course (at the University of Utah) that encouraged her to consider the natural and built environment in a different way. After attending Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, she completed a master's of architecture through the Southern California Institute of Architecture. "We studied at a campus in Switzerland, right on the Italian border," she says. "They are experts at blending contemporary architecture with the old and historic."

Sparano + Mooney designs only a few private residences a year, translating the client's vision into a legacy home that sits lightly and quietly on the land and is meant to stay in the family for generations to come.

Mooney is particularly interested in new ways to use low- or no-maintenance materials that "age well" over time—wood-grained concrete, warmed Corten or blackened steel and eye-catching perforated zinc panels.

"I work to surround myself with talented creative people," says Mooney. She credits her academic career (professor of architecture in the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Utah) with keeping her on the cutting edge but also with allowing her to have an impact on the next generation of architects. *—Irene Rawlings*

ANNE MOONEY



PHOTOS, OPPOSITE, GILLIAN HUNTER; THIS PAGE, DERICK KRAUSEN

This LEED Gold-certified home celebrates the brilliant light and raw beauty of the American West and offers indoor-outdoor living with panoramic views. A carefully considered site design brings light deep into the home in the winter and provides shade in the summer.

ERICA DELAK

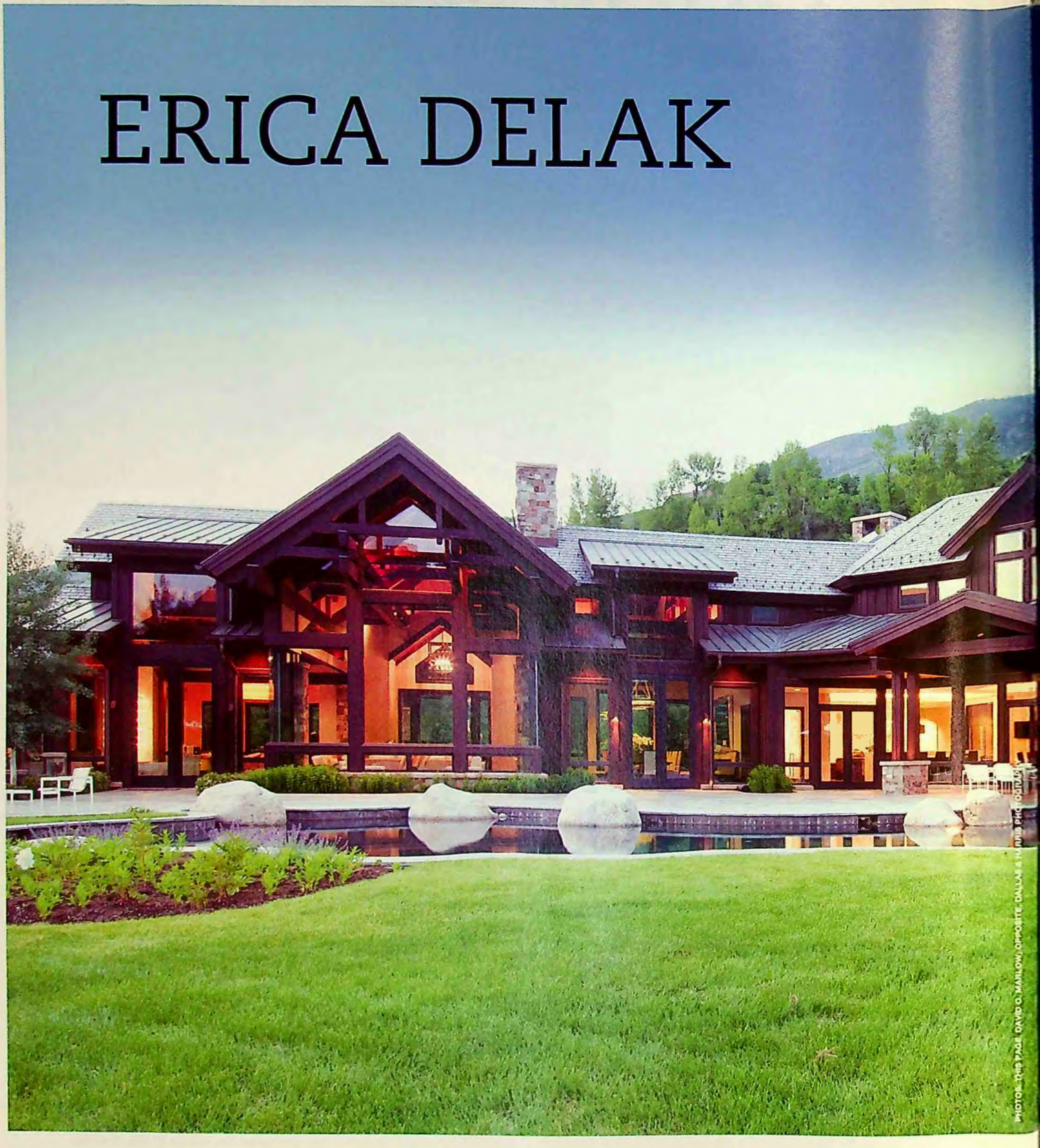


PHOTO: THIS PAGE, DAVID O. MARLOW; OPPOSITE, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/THE JOURNAL

CHARLES CUNNIFFE ARCHITECTS, Aspen, Colorado *cunniffe.com*

Erica Delak was introduced to the precision and symmetry of line drawing in a high school geometry class. During summer breaks from college, she worked on a framing crew, which helped her understand the connection between architectural drawings and actual buildings. Working in the field was also a big confidence builder. "I was fortunate," she says, "to be involved in projects early in my career that got me out into the field."

Today, as senior project manager at Charles Cunniffe Architects, Delak enjoys meeting contractors and craftspeople on the building sites to address challenges and discuss solutions. "There are many different people on a successful team, and my goal is to understand everyone's strengths and use them to benefit the project," she says.

Delak goes on to say that every client is different; every day is different; every project is different. "One of the most important attributes of an architect is the ability to listen ... to form a connection and really get to know the people we are designing for."

In terms of new materials and technology freshly applied to architecture, Delak is very interested in the wellness initiative—going beyond sustainable materials and "looking at the interior environment of each home we design and how they affect our clients' well-being." *—Irene Rawlings*

This large contemporary residence in Aspen was designed as a series of sections to break down the scale. The house uses a network of steel in the window walls that allowed the architect to incorporate large expanses of glass. A mix of modern and "mountain" styles, combining clean lines and natural materials, creates a fresh take on the classic mountain lodge.

RKD ARCHITECTS, INC., Edwards, Colorado
rkdarch.com

Sally Brainerd is principal architect, vice president and co-founder (in 1990, with her partner, Jack Snow) of RKD Architects, based in Edwards, Colorado. Brainerd grew up in Denver, surrounded by a family of artists, and assumed she'd follow in their footsteps. "But then, when I got into high school, I learned I was also really good at math," she says with a laugh. "From that point on, everybody said, 'Clearly you're going to be an architect!' So, it was planted in my brain, I guess." Brainerd ultimately combined all of her strengths to forge her career, earning a B.A. in mathematics and philosophy at Wellesley before training to become an architect at the University of Colorado.

In the early years, she dreamed of a city life designing skyscrapers. "But as I got into it, and got a little more experience, I realized that residential is where it's at," she says. Brainerd and Snow moved to Edwards in the late 1980s and never looked back, gaining a reputation for innovative, mountain-contemporary homes that harmonize with the landscape. "If you look at our work, there are no common threads," Brainerd notes. "You can either do what's expected of you, or you can push the boundaries and present something that's new and different, I'm good at knowing where that tension can come from." *–Laura Beausire*

Designed to fully integrate into its High Sierra surroundings, this Valhalla residence in Martis Camp, California, was conceived by Sally Brainerd as a series of sculptural, interlocking wedges. With walls of windows and patio access from most rooms, there's an easy indoor-outdoor flow.

PHOTOS: GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY

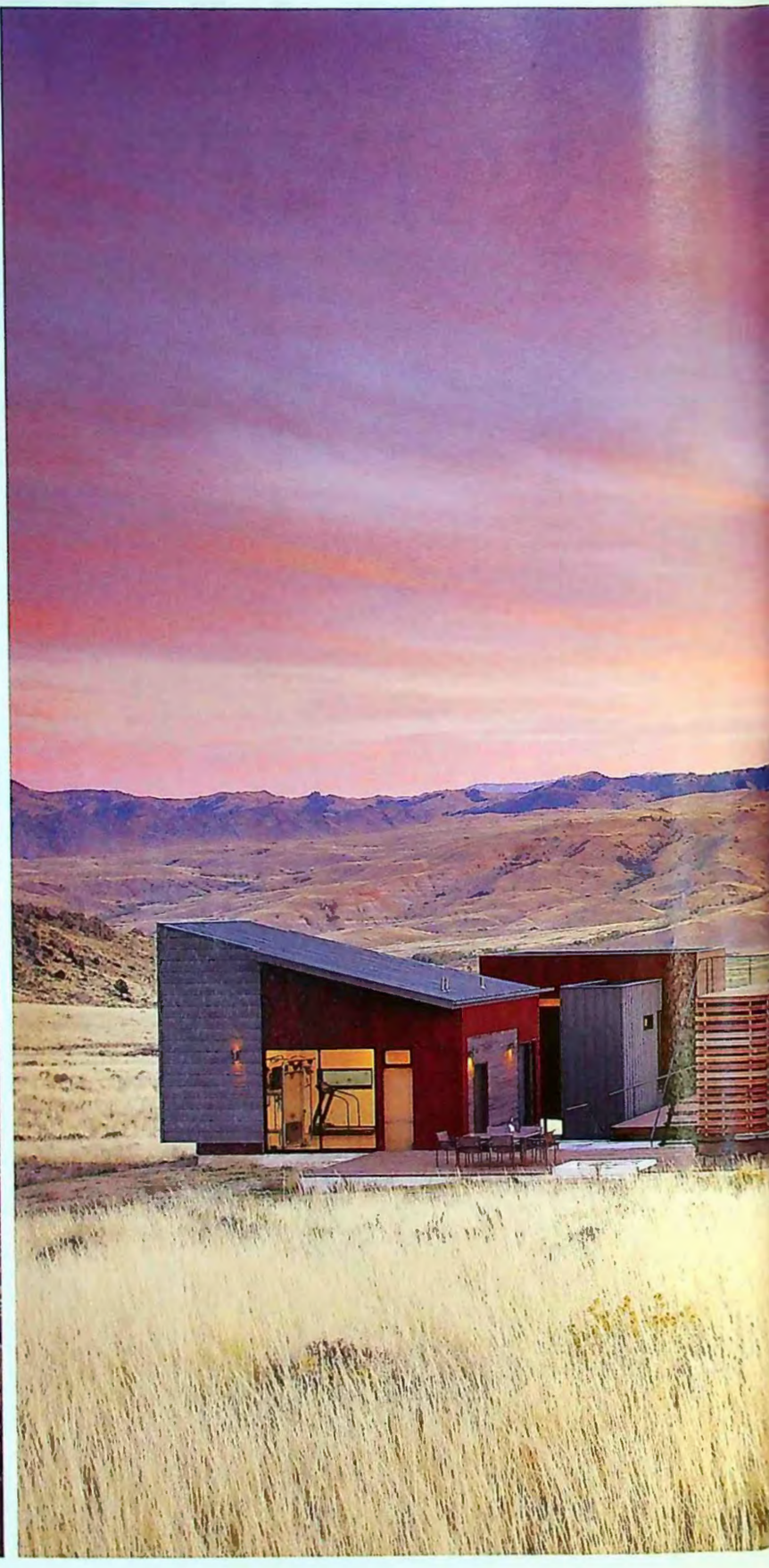
SALLY BRAINERD

STUDIORYKER, Livingston, Montana studioryker.com

Lori Ryker is principal and founder of studioryker in Livingston, Montana. Raised in a woodsy community north of Houston, Ryker fell in love with the idea of houses nestled into the forest at a young age. After earning a Master of Architecture degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a doctorate from Texas A&M University, she headed to Montana, where she began creating her own modern interpretation of houses surrounded by nature.

"I was really excited to begin to think about how I could design homes that fit within the place but had a very forward-thinking disposition on the land," Ryker says. "I wasn't repeating old motifs or staying really close to the vernacular that came about in the 1800s, but taking the spirit of that idea and then moving it forward into the present time."

Ryker is sensitive to the art and poetry of the built form, and sustainability is one of the cornerstones of her design philosophy. "I get to live every day in this place that is unbelievably beautiful, majestic and fragile," she says. "I like the combination of working with somebody specifically on what their vision is for how they want to live, and then thinking about how to match that well to the land or landscape."
–Laura Beausire



LORI RYKER

The stark beauty of Lori Ryker's Wapiti Residence—comprised of a main house, gym and guesthouse—harmonizes with the rugged grandeur of Wyoming's Wapiti Valley. A butterfly canopy roof hovers above walls created from teak, rammed earth, and steel.

PHOTOS: OPPOSITE, AUDREY HALL; THIS PAGE, MATTHEW MILLMAN

Known as The Lookout, this elegant Aspen-area home by Rowland+Broughton Architecture / Urban Design / Interior Design celebrates spectacular views of the Elk Mountains. Plentiful outdoor living areas allow access to the fresh Colorado air, with a custom copper pool providing an extra splash of sophistication.

PHOTOS: THIS PAGE, BRENT MOSS; OPPOSITE, DANIEL TRESE

SARAH BROUGHTON

ROWLAND+BROUGHTON ARCHITECTURE/URBAN DESIGN/INTERIOR DESIGN, Aspen, Colorado
rowlandbroughton.com

Sarah Broughton, founder and principal of Aspen's Rowland+Broughton, seems to have been destined for architecture. She remembers drawing plans and having a sense of spatial awareness even as a child in Portland, Oregon, and a talent for math made her a natural fit for the architecture program when she attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. After working for a time in both Australia and New York, Broughton and her husband, John Rowland, moved back to Colorado and founded Rowland+Broughton in 2003.

"What I love about architecture the most is that it's all-encompassing," Broughton reflects. "Architecture touches everything—it's sociology, anthropology, technology, art, beauty—it's the ultimate problem solving." Today, the firm maintains studios in Aspen and Denver, and R+B provides services in architecture, urban design and interior design for a wide range of residential and commercial clients. Always eager to learn, Broughton says, "We want clients that mentor us as much as we mentor them."

Broughton brings her trademark passion and energy to every project, from homes to hotels, office buildings to restaurants. "Architecture is a fusion of art and everyday life," she says. "I just love that there's an ability to change people's lives, and there's an ability to change the environment, the way we interact with nature and the way we interact with our built environment." *–Laura Beausire*

WALTON ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING, Tahoe City, California *waltonae.com*

Clare Walton, co-founding principal of Walton Architecture + Engineering, clearly remembers her first architecture project. "It was a model of a house, made from foam core with a pressed-paper terra cotta roof," she says. From there she set up a little studio where she would draw elevations using tracing paper, crayons, a triangle and a T-square.

Walton was passionate about residential architecture and equally passionate about living in the mountains. As soon after architecture school (Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and Washington University in St. Louis) as financially possible, she moved to the Lake Tahoe area. To start out, the firm did a variety of small projects, which it treated like "little jewels." Because she worked hard on developing solid relationships, larger projects followed—often from second homeowners with a strong interest in architecture.

"Everyone is looking for something different—and we have a broad range of styles in our portfolio—but, basically, everyone wants one thing: a sheltering home for their family," Walton says. Every new-client meeting starts with long conversations about programs and aesthetic goals. "I ask my clients to share about how their family life flows and what inspires them," Walton says. Next come visits to the building site to learn the views, trees, the trajectory of the sun and other important features.

Walton's goal is to build energy efficiency into each of her projects. "It is where we need to go based on the world today," she says. *—Irene Rawlings*

CLARE WALTON

PHOTOS OPPOSITE: AUDREY MORETTI OF THE POOL SAN FROST

This home was designed to be open to the landscape on all sides, creating a variety of distinctive outdoor living spaces, some very open, others carved into the hillside with a roof overhead for a cozy feel. Board-formed concrete is the primary building material.

The house is built of Montana moss rock and reclaimed timber on spits of land that are surrounded by streams and ponds. Bronze-framed front doors open into the foyer with floor-to-ceiling windows that reveal big views of the water and the mountains beyond.

PHOTOS: AUDREY HALL

ASHLEY SULLIVAN

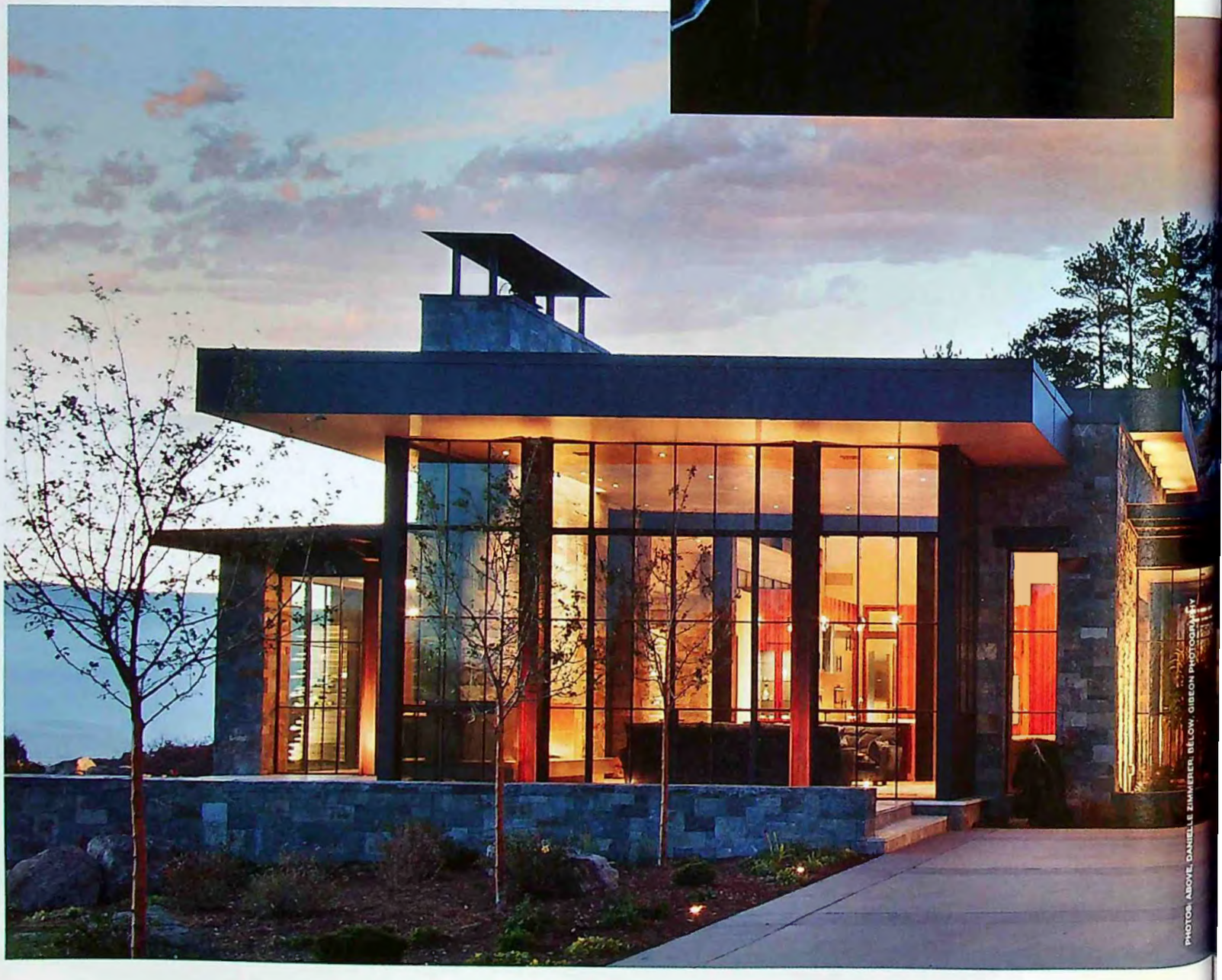
JLF ARCHITECTS, Bozeman, Montana *jlfarchitects.com*

"Creating dynamic spaces has always been a part of my life," says Ashley Sullivan, design principal and managing director of JLF Architects and partner of JLF Design Build. Encouraged by her parents, she started by building "magical spaces" in the woods surrounding her childhood homes in Wilton, Connecticut, and in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sullivan's place-based architecture and design sensitivity began at Auburn University and was reinforced by working with professor Samuel Mockbee at the legendary Rural Studio, where the students designed and built a home in less than a year. "The project I worked on was a family's first home with indoor plumbing," she remembers. "I saw the impact of my profession firsthand ... how it can change lives." She learned to love the craft of building—swinging a hammer, cutting every piece of wood, pouring concrete—and the importance of asking: "What is the most creative space we can build within the framework we have available?"

Today, in her position at JLF Architects, Sullivan works collaboratively within the design-build partnership to create beautiful homes that are equally timeless and innovative. "We transform our clients' vision into a physical space that's sacred to them," she says. So, in a sense, Sullivan is still creating magnificent and magical places. *–Irene Rawlings*

SARAH TIEDEKEN O'BRIEN



PHOTOS: ABOVE, DANIELLE ZIMMERER; BELOW, GIBEON PHOTOGRAPHY

VERTICAL ARTS ARCHITECTURE, Steamboat Springs, Colorado *vertical-arts.com*

Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien is a partner and owner of Vertical Arts Architecture in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. O'Brien discovered her talent for design early on, thanks to high school drafting classes in her hometown of Cheyenne, Wyoming. When she went on to the University of Oregon, architecture seemed a natural choice. "It was a really nice blend of being able to be creative, but also to think technically," she says.

After graduating and then traveling in Australia for nearly a year, O'Brien landed a job at Vertical Arts, and she's been there ever since. "I really like being involved in everything," she admits. "The up-front site planning and design, the detailing, helping pick out finishes down to furniture and accessories—you get this crazy scope; it just creates a really diverse profession."

At the age of 33, O'Brien is just hitting her stride. She avoids the idea of a "signature style," instead opting for what she calls "a cool clash of styles that really speaks to that specific client." It's a kind of intense collaboration that aims toward a complete, custom fit. "You're designing something with someone that's so intimate," she reflects. "It's fun to create something that's really going to enhance someone's life every day." *–Laura Beausire*

» For more on these remarkable women in architecture, visit mountainliving.com/WomeninArchitecture2020

In a striking marriage of structure and setting, Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien designed this sleek, steel and glass Larkspur, Colorado, house and its accompanying equestrian facility to perch on a rocky hillside. The home's custom, laser-cut, Moroccan-patterned screens are a tribute to the homeowner's family heritage.

VAIL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

KASIA KARSKA DESIGN

BY LEAH LEWIS

NESTLED IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS of Colorado, Vail Valley is an alpine retreat that feels a world away from the hustle of city life—yet is only a two hour drive from Denver International Airport. As one of the world's premier mountain resorts, Vail attracts over one million visitors each year. With legendary ski terrain in the winter and unrivaled outdoor adventures and cultural events during the summer, this mountainside gem is truly a year-round destination. As such, it may not surprise you that Vail is home to just as many permanent residents as part-time vacation residents. On the following pages, we will introduce you to several of the top home builders, architects, designers and showrooms serving the Vail Valley. Inspired by four seasons of picturesque mountain landscapes and international aesthetics, these industry leaders are focused on sustainability and designs that seamlessly connect interior spaces to outdoor living. Mountain architecture is about the lifestyle, and creating a personal sanctuary through unexpected and imaginative design. Get to know these talented professionals, and you will discover that Vail Valley is not only a premier destination for outdoor recreation and relaxation—but also for cutting-edge mountain home design.

INSPIRED SPACES

SIPES ARCHITECTS specializes in custom crafted new homes and reimagining existing homes, as well as hospitality and restaurant design.

How does curiosity and a sense of wonder inform your architectural designs?

WE ARE ALWAYS SEEKING new and innovative sources to inspire our designs. Whether from our travels, time in nature or a great meal, inspiration is everywhere—and we relish the organic growth of creative ideas.

How do you approach sustainability in your projects?

SUSTAINABILITY is a core value that we consider with each decision during the design process. We feel it is our duty to reduce our impact on natural resources without sacrificing any of the other project criteria. A beautiful building is one that exceeds our client's goals and embraces and enhances our natural environment.

What has been your most rewarding project so far?

ALL OF OUR PROJECTS are tremendously rewarding because we help our clients achieve their dreams. We strive for design with depth and layers of meaning that turns a home into a personal sanctuary. There is no better feeling than bringing ideas to the table and seeing the excitement that comes with unexpected solutions.

SIPES ARCHITECTS, LLC
Brian Sipes, Founding Principal
Todd Biekkola, Partner
970-236-1519 | sipesarchitects.com
Minturn, Colorado

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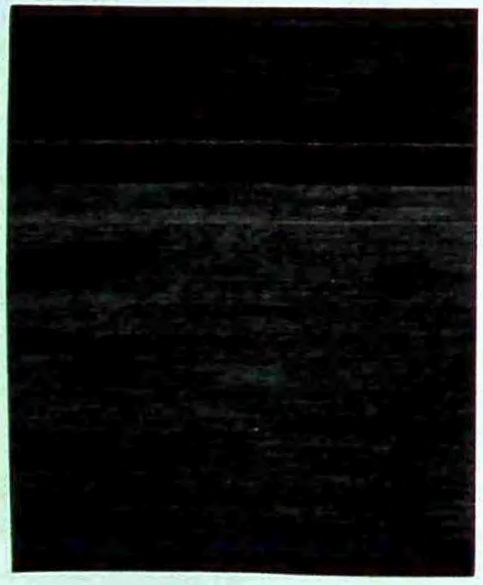


How do you help clients choose or design the right new floor?

YOU WILL BE WORKING WITH EXPERTS from start to finish. Our staff of professional designers is skilled at combining the aesthetic goals of your project with the practical needs of your lifestyle and can guide you to the best selections for your home.

What flooring options can we expect to find in your showroom, and what makes your offerings unique?

WHEN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW FLOOR, whether it is wall-to-wall carpeting, hardwood, luxury vinyl planks, tile or area rugs, you will be sure to find it among our incredible selection. We don't use freelance installers—and you shouldn't either. Our full-time staff of professionals will install your new floor right away and to the highest quality standards, which are backed by our lifetime installation guarantee.

You are known for your impressive selection of area rugs. Describe the range of sizes and styles you offer.

OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS we have built relationships with the world's leading rug-makers, and our vast collection of area rugs includes all the latest trends, along with traditional classics. Hundreds of our full-size area rugs are available to check out like library books, so you can see each piece in your home before making a selection. We will deliver your favorites to try out for free. Our in-house fabrication department can make any custom size or shape that your room demands.

Tell us about your relationship with Carpet One and how customers benefit from the partnership.

WE HAVE BEEN A MEMBER of Carpet One, the country's largest flooring cooperative, for 30 years. The combined buying power of hundreds of Carpet One stores allows us to always offer nationally competitive prices.

RUGGS BENEDICT
Mandy Benedict, Sales Manager and Partner
970-949-5390 | ruggsbenedict.com
Avon, Colorado

COMFORT AND CREATIVITY

Michael Suman, owner and design lead of **SUMAN ARCHITECTS**, shares how each one of his contemporary mountain home designs is inextricably linked to its site—and its owners.

What characteristics of contemporary design resonate with you?

I ADMIRE THE SENSIBILITIES and thoughtfulness of contemporary design, particularly large areas of glass and smart floorplans that connect to exterior spaces. Combining this with the incredible beauty of mountain settings makes a great match. I embrace the challenge of providing comfortable places of refuge in natural-light-filled rooms with expansive views.

Your designs respond to each client and site in imaginative ways. What sparks your creativity?

CAREFUL LISTENING. First, I listen to my client's needs and goals, which inevitably provide the initial spark. Next, I listen to the property's context—to the site's unique attributes, opportunities and environmental influences. An intimate understanding of these factors provides the framework for imaginative solutions.

What do you enjoy most about creating residential architecture?

I REALLY ENJOY a project's beginning stages, when a home design can wander through the possibilities while staying true to the client's goals. I enjoy how the finer details enhance the whole. And finally, I enjoy how the personal process of residential design inevitably transforms clients into friends.

SUMAN ARCHITECTS
Michael Suman, AIA, Owner and Design Lead
970-471-6122 | sumanarchitects.com
Vail, Colorado

DESIGN-BUILD DREAMS

Meet the owner and lead designer of **KASIA KARSKA DESIGN**, a boutique design-build firm that specializes in creating custom homes from the ground up.

What does it mean to be a "design-build" firm, and what is your design process?

AS A DESIGN-BUILD FIRM, we are involved in absolutely every aspect of the project, from start to finish. We start with the conceptual designs of a home and get to know our clients—their lifestyle, vision and passions. From there, we move onto the architectural plans and design both the inside and outside of the home. I am also the general contractor during the construction portion of the project. We wrap up with the final design aspects of the home, including fixed finishes and often landscape design and furnishings.

What is the most rewarding aspect of a project?

I AM VERY PASSIONATE about the entire process of creating a home for my clients that reflects their lifestyle and truly transforms their home into their own personal sanctuary. Our client relationships mean so much to us, and every project is an opportunity to grow and learn from each new client. Fostering these relationships – and building our clients their dream homes along the way – is incredibly rewarding.

KASIA KARSKA DESIGN
Kasia Karska, Owner & Lead Designer
970-688-5748 | KasiaKarskaDesign.com
Vail, Colorado

BUILDING A LIFESTYLE

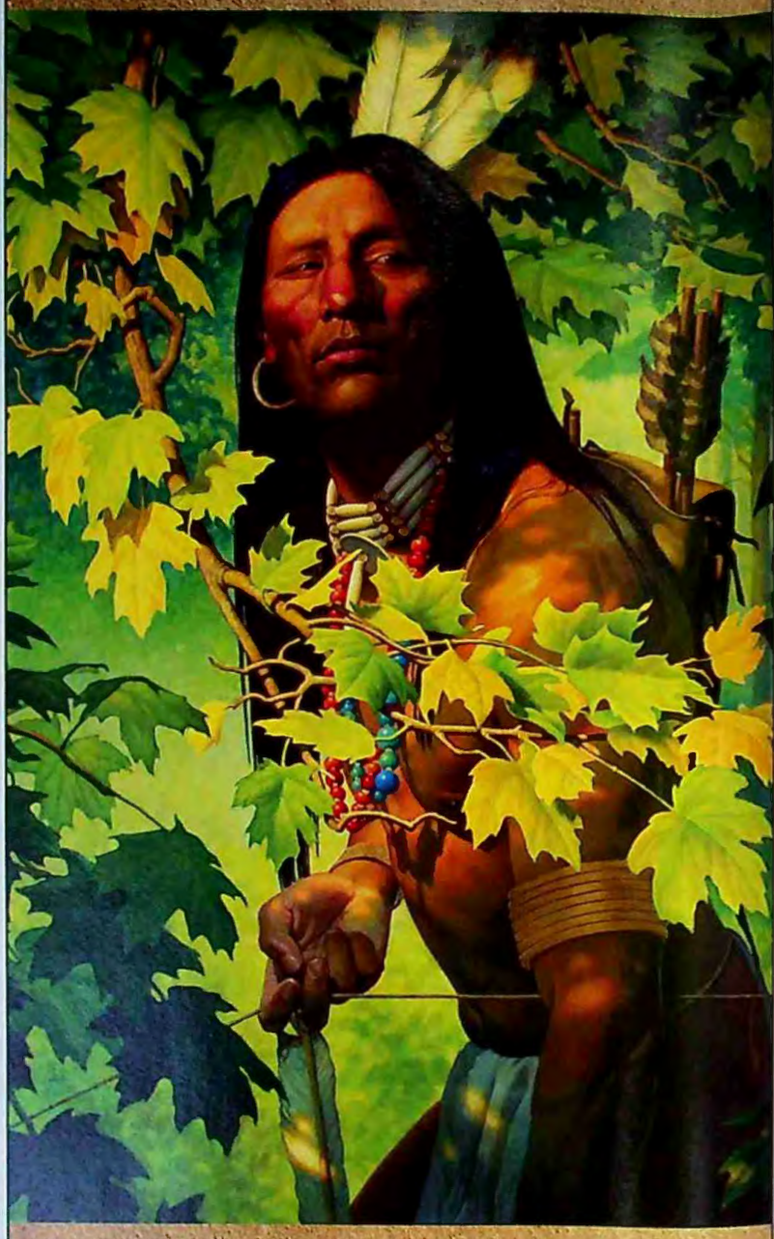
Custom home builder **MEADOW MOUNTAIN HOMES** knows how to overcome the challenges of alpine construction to build distinctive mountain retreats for their clients.

How does your work bring the "mountain lifestyle" to your clients?

WE LIKE TO SAY we are building mountain homes for mountain people. The homes we build are more than wood and concrete, bricks and mortar, windows and floors—they are about the homeowners. Whatever it is that reflects our clients' unique mountain lifestyles, our homes meet them there. They are a sanctuary to reboot and go back into the elements to recreate another day.

MEADOW MOUNTAIN HOMES
Ingrid McGinley, Vice President
970-926-2824 | mmh-vail.com
Edwards, Colorado

36TH ANNUAL
FALL ARTS FESTIVAL



—HUNTER'S WATCH, THOMAS BLACKSHEAR—

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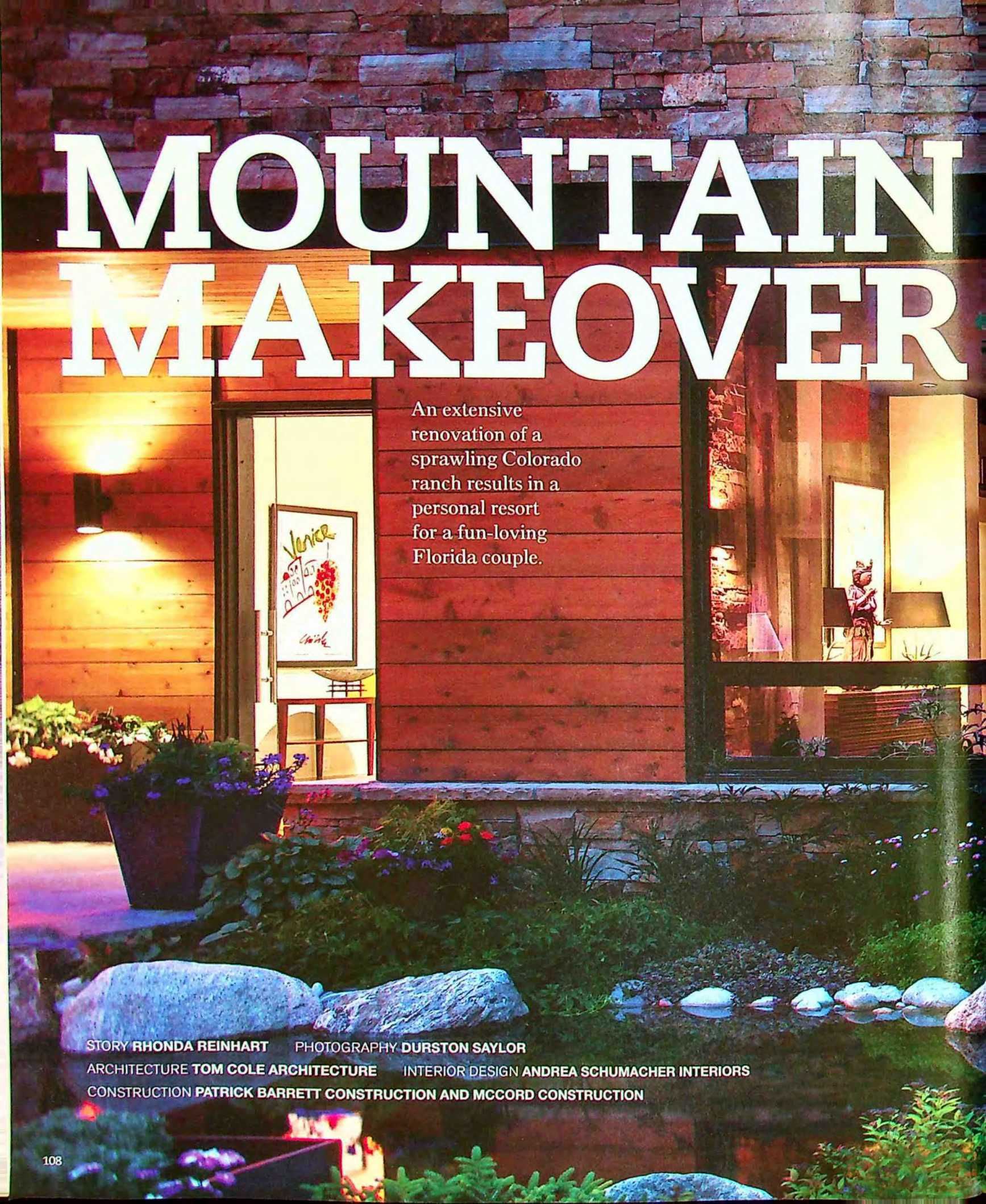
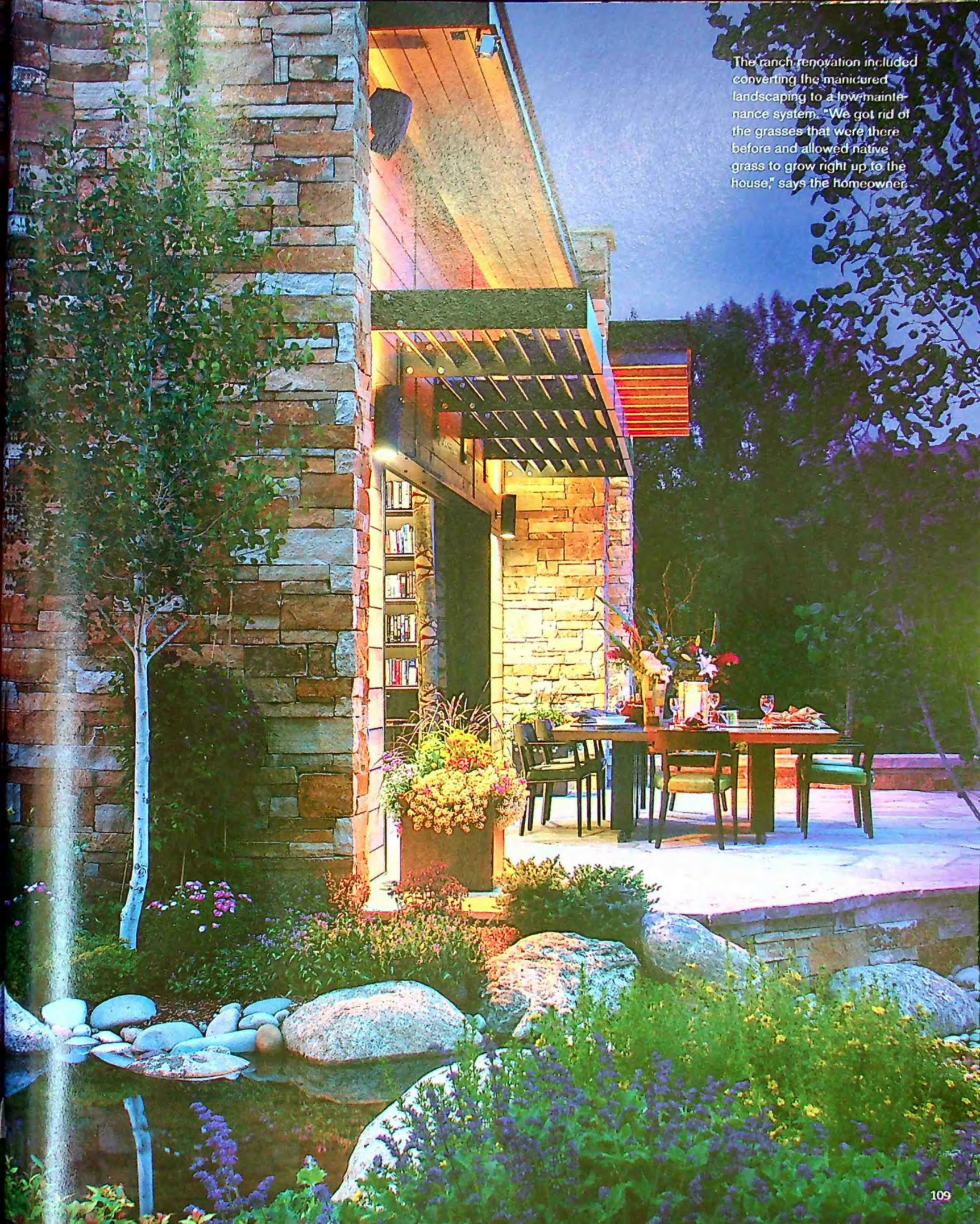
MOUNTAIN MAKEOVER

An extensive renovation of a sprawling Colorado ranch results in a personal resort for a fun-loving Florida couple.



STORY **RHONDA REINHART** PHOTOGRAPHY **DURSTON SAYLOR**
ARCHITECTURE **TOM COLE ARCHITECTURE** INTERIOR DESIGN **ANDREA SCHUMACHER INTERIORS**
CONSTRUCTION **PATRICK BARRETT CONSTRUCTION AND MCCORD CONSTRUCTION**



The ranch renovation included converting the manicured landscaping to a low-maintenance system. "We got rid of the grasses that were there before and allowed native grass to grow right up to the house," says the homeowner.

THIS PAGE: The sitting room of the main house offers plenty of seating, including a pair of custom lounge chairs covered in chocolate-colored velvet. OPPOSITE: A wallpaper depicting sawn log ends adds a woodsy vibe to the living room of the guesthouse.

When a Naples, Florida, couple purchased a 146-acre ranch and house in Colorado's Vail Valley, a massive renovation project wasn't what they had in mind. Their daughter was on the equestrian circuit at the time, and they thought the property would be an ideal place to break ponies. As it turns out, they didn't end up raising horses on the ranch, but the property did become a fun mountain getaway for the family, a spot where they could fish and hike in the summer and snowshoe and snowmobile in the winter.

About a dozen years after the couple bought the spread, however, their plans changed again. They visited an open house at a nearby property and saw the work of Tom Cole, a Vail architect known for his mountain home design. They wanted to turn the ranch into more of a resort, a playground of sorts for visiting friends and family, and they thought Cole could be the first piece of the puzzle. "We were so taken by the house," says the husband, "that we met with him within a couple of days after going through the home that he had designed."

The meeting was a success, and the homeowners were eager to get going on the project, so Cole quickly came on board, even moving on-site throughout design and construction to help keep the process flowing as smoothly as possible. The massive project included remodeling the 8,600-square-foot main house and adding several new buildings, including a guesthouse, an athletic center, an equestrian center and a pavilion. It was such a big project that the homeowners ended up hiring two builders: Patrick Barrett and Tom McCord. "They did an incredible job of distributing the labor and the resources," says Cole. "They complemented each other really well." >>

DOUBLE DUTY

Because formal dining rooms tend to sit unused most of the time, the homeowners opted for a dining-study combination. Here's how their dream team of designers made the space possible.

ROLL WITH IT Interior designer Andrea Schumacher outfitted the room with three custom tables on casters. Most days, the pieces are the perfect place to catch up on work or page through a book. But if a dinner party is on the agenda, the homeowners can push them together to make one big dining table or roll them outside on the adjoining terrace for an al fresco dining experience.

BRING THE INSIDE OUT The 20-foot-wide glass-and-steel garage door that separates the dining-study from the terrace can be rolled up for a seamless indoor-outdoor connection. "It comes up and parks above the suspended ceiling," says architect Tom Cole. "You don't even know it's there when it's open." **KEEP IT COZY** In addition to the book-filled built-ins that line the walls, Schumacher created a reading nook with a comfy upholstered chair. She also added a jute rug, custom velvet draperies and a moss-colored herringbone wallcovering to make the space feel warm and welcoming.

FROM LEFT: Nature is never far from view at the ranch, such as in this cozy spot near the entry, where interior designer Andrea Schumacher placed a low-profile tufted leather bench. "That window almost looks like art," she says. The dining room, which also acts as a study, opens onto a spacious terrace.

THIS PAGE: Schumacher opted for a clean-lined custom bed in the master bedroom, which she softened with a hand-knotted shag rug and upholstered wall. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Just off the master bedroom, an orange grass-cloth wallcovering provides a bright backdrop for a Chinese demilune cabinet. The master bathroom in the guesthouse features tortoiseshell wall tile, a copper vessel sink and a leather mirror by Jamie Young Co. The glamping tent makes playful use of color.

One of the team's first steps was revamping the main house. "It was just a white stucco building, and it didn't have any relationship to the natural environment," says the homeowner. "I gave my architect three directives. I said give me a renovation that you can't see. Give me views we don't have. And where we can bring the outdoors in, do so." The result is a modern take on a mountain retreat, with cedar, stone and steel creating a natural palette that nods to the surrounding meadows, rivers, ponds and aspen groves.

To ensure that the interiors were as spectacular as the new-and-improved exterior, the homeowners enlisted Denver-based designer Andrea Schumacher. The designer made it her mission to choose décor that celebrates the landscape. "We tried to soften everything on the inside so your eye was drawn to the outside," she says. "Before, there was more color to it, so your eye was drawn inward." Schumacher also used some of the exterior materials as accents in the interior, including the rock surround on the living-room fireplace and the cedar-clad ceiling in the entry. "[We wanted] to integrate the interior and exterior vibe," she says, "so there wasn't a stark contrast from outside to inside." Though Schumacher relied on neutral hues and natural elements in the main house ("We just tried to play with the colors you find in nature," she says), she kept things more playful in the guesthouse (think graphic wallpaper, red lacquered case goods and squirrel-adorned upholstery).

The playfulness continues in the pavilion, which is decked out with a bar and movie theater, as well as farther down the property, where the homeowners set up a furnished tent overlooking a creek. "We have attitude modification sessions down there on a regular basis," the husband says of the tucked-away glampsite. When it comes to lifting the spirits, though, the tent is just one of many mood-altering spots that resulted from the ranch's impressive reinvention.

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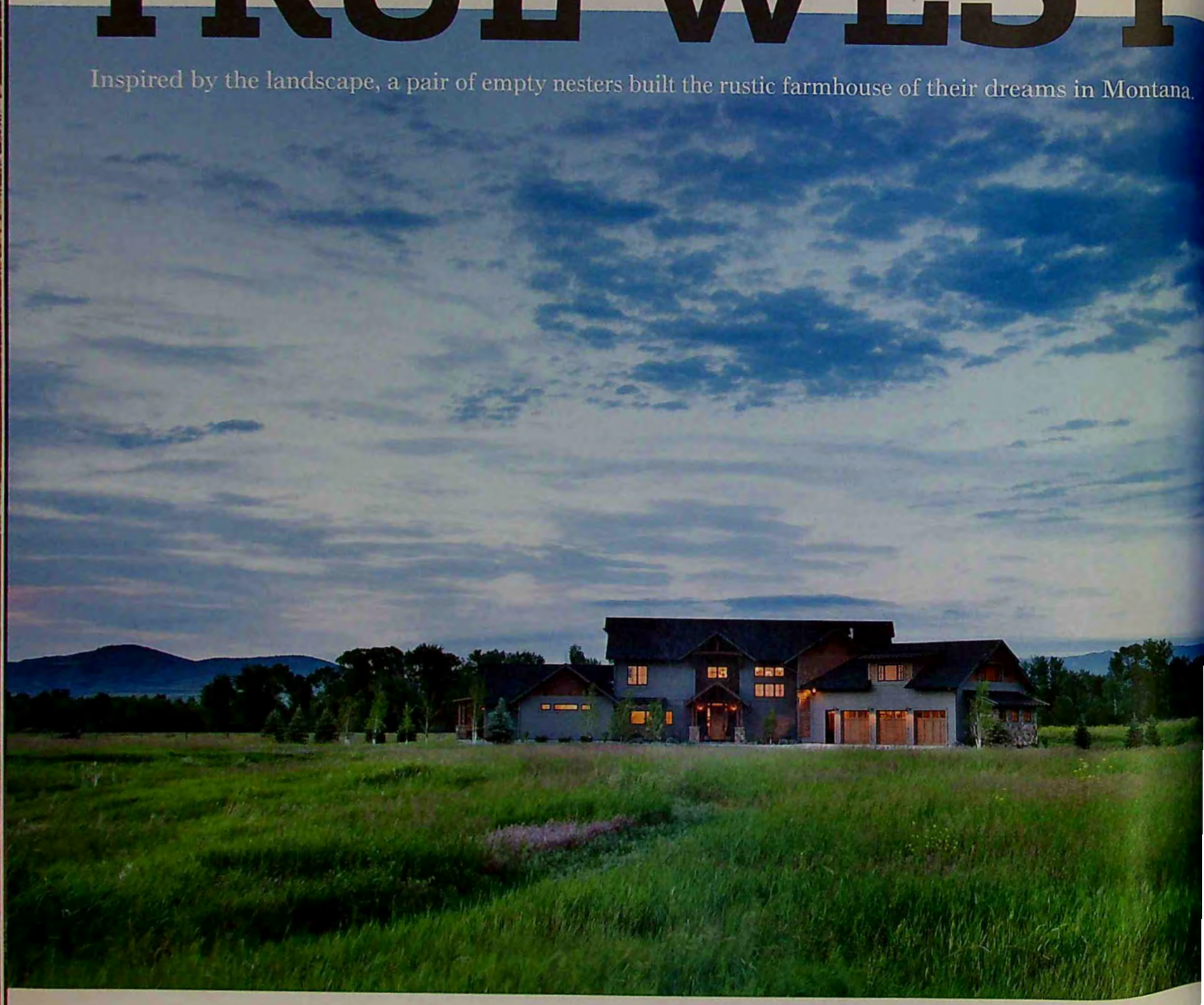
TRUE WEST

Inspired by the landscape, a pair of empty nesters built the rustic farmhouse of their dreams in Montana.



STORY **LAURA KOSTELNY** PHOTOGRAPHY **HEIDI LONG**
ARCHITECTURE **SMA ARCHITECTS** INTERIOR DESIGN **TK DESIGN STUDIO** CONSTRUCTION **TOLLEFSON BUILDERS**

The modern Montana farmhouse, designed by Bozeman-based interior designer Teresa Kessler-Prond and architect Charley Franklin, features a light and airy palette, exposed beams, natural stone finishes and breathtaking views from every angle.

For a couple born and bred in Ohio, the Midwest was never west enough. So, in the early 1990s, when their children were 9 and 11, they realized that if they wanted to raise their kids surrounded by wilderness, mountains and rolling plains, this was their chance. "We sold everything and headed for Montana," says the homeowner, who is married to a now-retired contractor. "We flipped houses all over the place for years and years." They hung on to two properties along the way—a ranch near Butte and a home located just south of Bozeman. In fact, it was the journey between the two that inspired their third purchase, a beautifully lush expanse of 20 acres. "We drive on I-90 constantly and had our eyes on the area for a long time," she says. "We knew it would be a great place to build another home."

In order to make the most of their surroundings, they called in two Montana-based experts, architect Charley Franklin and interior designer Teresa Kessler-Prond, to create a homestead that would enhance those wide-open views. "We didn't want the standard, dark lodge home," says the homeowner. "We wanted something light and bright, so we just turned Teresa loose. She and Charley came up with the plan."

Kessler-Prond had a bit of an edge—she had worked with the homeowners on a previous project—so she and Franklin set about designing a house that suited both the day-to-day needs of empty nesters along with comfortable spots tailor-made for their always-invited adult children and grandkids. "Our goal was to create a home filled with spaces that speak to specific family members when they visit, so they immediately feel right at home," says Kessler-Prond. The owner and design duo also took the serene surroundings into consideration when deciding on the architectural style of the home. "We wanted to capture the spectacular setting, and bring the outdoors in," adds architect Franklin. "The homeowner had visions for each space in the home, and we really designed from the inside out."

The result: a light and airy six-bedroom, four-bathroom 5,744-square-foot modern farmhouse featuring a host of natural elements—white oak floors, exposed fir beams, a fireplace clad in limestone, and tons of light. "We lengthened the home on an axis line running from northwest to southeast, and we were intentional about the window design to produce a wonderful, natural illumination throughout the home at all times of day," says Franklin. Additional special touches include charming transoms, cozy window seats and an old-school, built-in breakfast nook. Of the latter, the homeowner says, "We sit there all the time. It's >>

The designer chose a variety of surfaces in pristine hues for the open kitchen, including Silestone in Calcutta Gold for the island topper, PentalQuartz countertops around the perimeter and ceramic Trikeenan tiles for the back wall.

A+ ALCOVES

When it comes to carving out a cozy little nook, interior designer Teresa Kessler-Prond advises thinking big. Distinctive sconces, bold fabrics, fun accessories and thoughtful construction can make for a setting that's almost as dreamy as the scenery on the other side of the windows.

MAKE IT WORK Kessler-Prond designed custom cabinetry with each specific location and function in mind. The master bedroom window seat has drawers for extra pillows and blankets, while the kitchen banquette boasts shelving for cookbooks. The third window seat base was crafted with the homeowners' adult daughter's style in mind. "It has a motif that helps it swing a little boho," she says. PUMP UP THE PATTERN Even those who like to keep things in neutral should consider adding a splash of color with fun fabrics for pillows or window treatments. The investment is typically small—depending on the size of your application, you may only need a few yards—so why not take a chance on a chintz, check, chinoiserie or block print linen? SHINE A LIGHT. Once again, it pays to assess how the space is meant to be used. A pretty pendant might make the most sense in a breakfast nook, but if you're creating a reading nook, try a charming barn light or a sleek brass sconce. "The light fixtures really help to set the mood for the space," says Kessler-Prond.

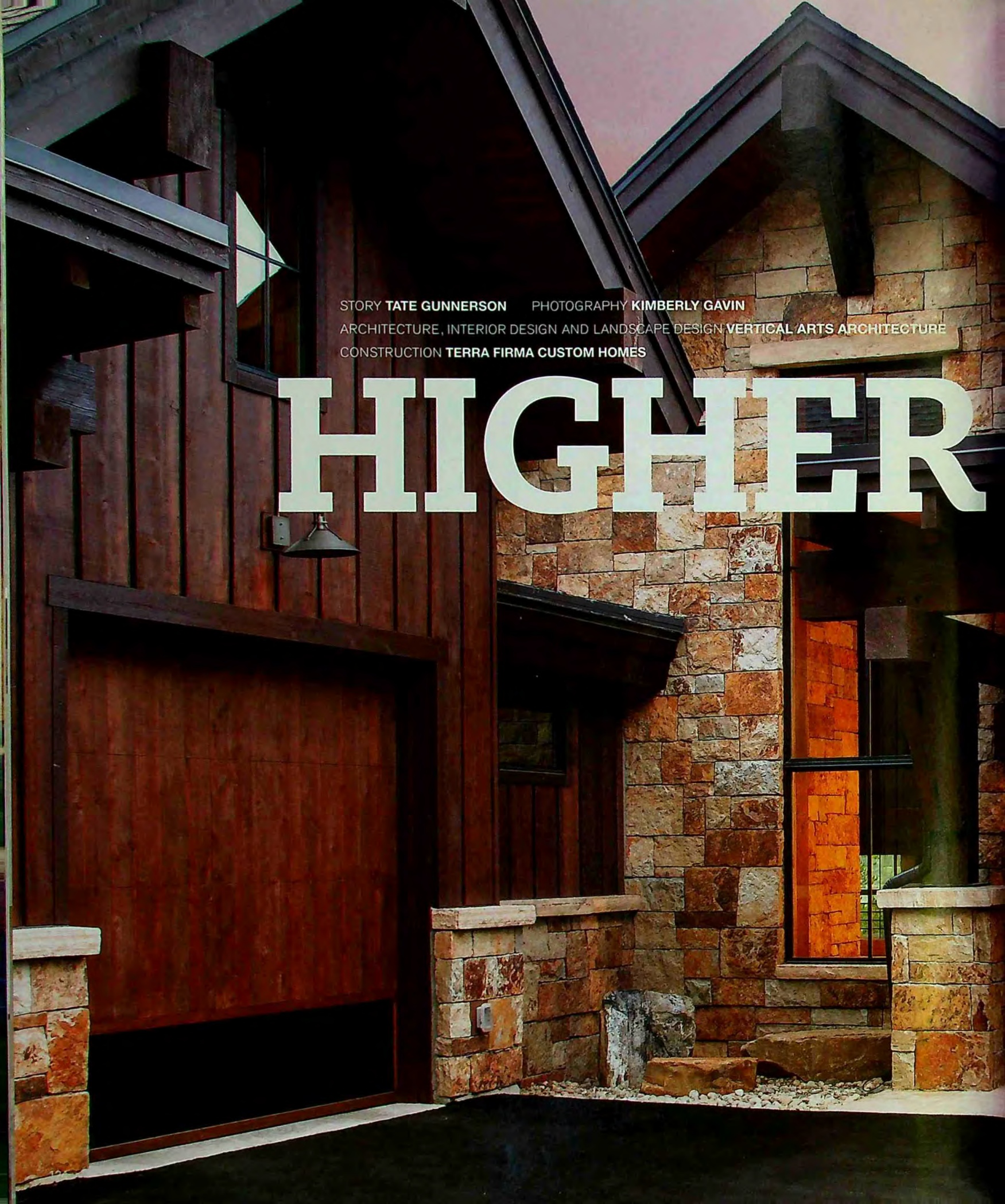
THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: For added farmhouse charm, the powder room features an antique console-turned-vanity. The cozy banquette—covered in navy Bricolette fabric by Schumacher—takes its color cues from the blue skies just outside the windows. During the holidays, extended family pulls up Pyke dining chairs to an Ethan Allen Sayer table that seats eight. OPPOSITE: The soaring entry is layered with texture thanks to a menagerie of Sangwe and Bengal baskets and a large macramé textile from Wisteria.

become our spot for morning coffee and it's where we take in the great views in the evening. Hundreds of deer, moose, eagles, mink, sandhill cranes—every night it's a show!"

Those very views also contributed significantly to the palette inside. The designer says that while most people associate the color blue with coastal décor, she grew up surrounded by the hue in the mountains of nearby Big Sky. "I really amped up the blues knowing how calming they are and how they represent the landscape the homeowners have come to love," Kessler-Prond says. She layered in additional pops of color via textiles in various patterns, plaids and florals. "But I kept the overall canvas light and airy to leave room for my clients' lives to be the texture. I like to think I help set the stage for their story," she adds.

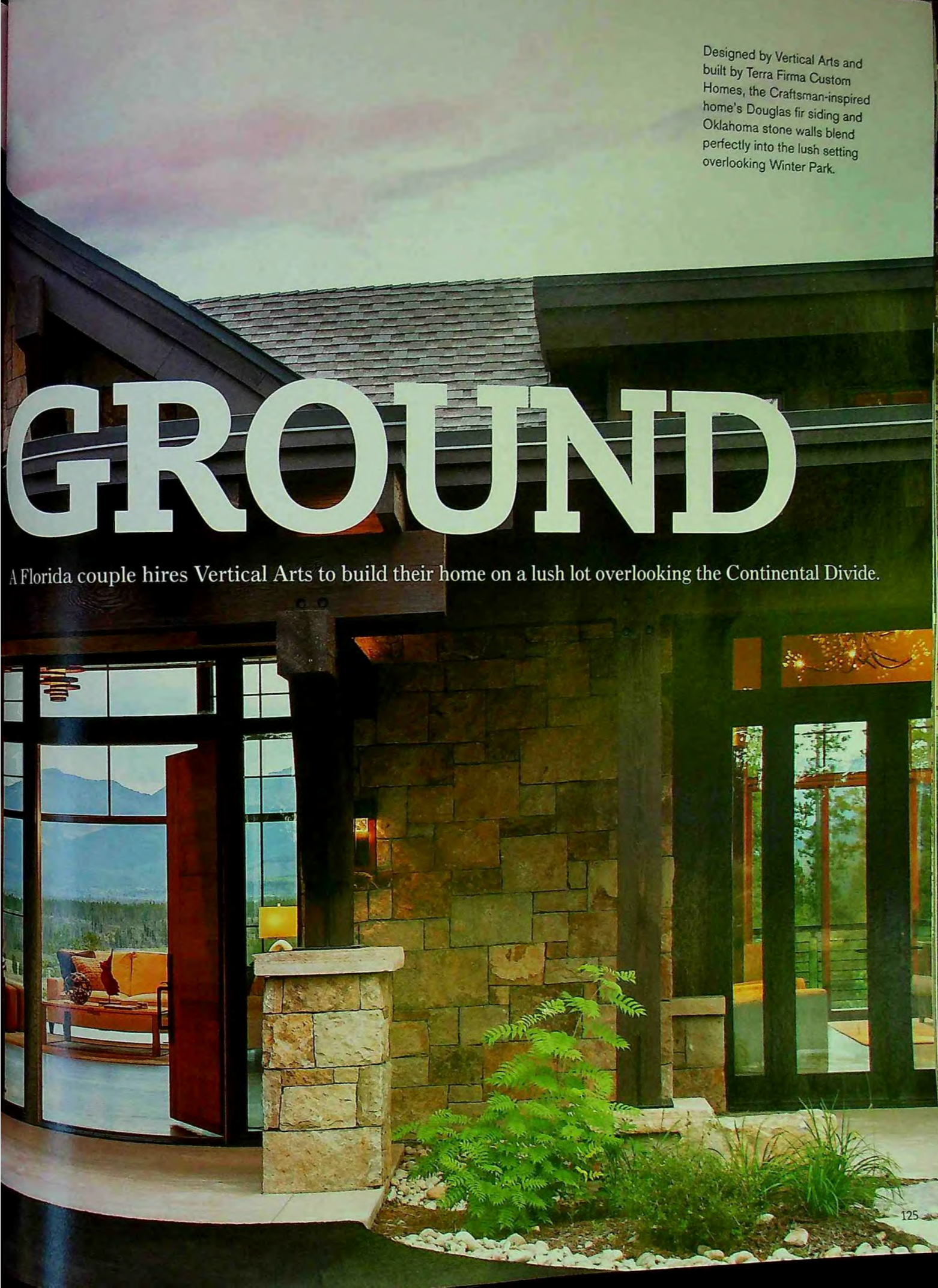
Their story, as it turns out, is a happy one. "I really give all the credit to Teresa for our rustic Bohemian farmhouse," the homeowner says. The design and floorplan are perfect for the active couple—when it's just the two of them, they rarely go upstairs, because everything they need is downstairs. "I truly can't name my favorite spot because we love them all," she says. "Every single room is lived in and messed up." Their interior designer says that nothing could make her happier: "Knowing I helped create a place where the beauty is more about making memories than just enjoying the immediate surroundings is a lovely feeling!" ○

OPPOSITE: In a nod to the natural beauty of the surroundings, the designer added a succulent-and-juniper-root installation above a bed by Caracole and a pair of Jackson bedside tables by Consort Home. RIGHT: A cozy guest room boasts a bed from Classic Home–dressed in bird-clad Chinoiserie bedding by DwellStudio–and side tables from BOBO Intriguing Objects. BELOW: The spa-like master bathroom features a Coastal Serin freestanding tub by American Standard.



STORY **TATE GUNNERSON** PHOTOGRAPHY **KIMBERLY GAVIN**
ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN **VERTICAL ARTS ARCHITECTURE**
CONSTRUCTION **TERRA FIRMA CUSTOM HOMES**

HIGHER



Designed by Vertical Arts and built by Terra Firma Custom Homes, the Craftsman-inspired home's Douglas fir siding and Oklahoma stone walls blend perfectly into the lush setting overlooking Winter Park.

GROUND

A Florida couple hires Vertical Arts to build their home on a lush lot overlooking the Continental Divide.

The mountains have long held an allure for Florida residents Howard and Nordin Weinberger, who lived in Salt Lake City years ago and regularly journeyed out West from Florida for skiing adventures with their three children. During one such excursion, they discovered Winter Park, Colorado. "We loved the hometown feel," Howard says. "The community was friendly and welcoming."

With retirement in mind, the couple purchased a two-acre lot on a high point overlooking the Fraser Valley, the Continental Divide and the Winter Park ski resort. For 15 years they dreamed of their future mountain retreat, ultimately hiring Vertical Arts to make it a reality. "They were looking for a mix between contemporary and traditional, warm but with an edge," explains project manager Chandler Deimund.

Inspired by Craftsman-style architecture but with a mountain twist, the fantastic result has a series of gables and flat, low-sloped roofs, many with exposed rafters and bracketing. The grand dwelling's rustic Douglas fir siding accents the Oklahoma stone walls, which flow into the interior, enhancing the connection between inside and out.

Inside the solid walnut front door, visitors are greeted with a mountain view through the soaring windows in the open living room. "The large, dramatic window walls make it feel more modern," firm partner Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien says. "It creates this really bright, airy interior that is not typical for mountain timber-frame homes."

A floor-to-ceiling raw steel fireplace holds its own against the views, its three-sided hearth allowing the flames to be seen from every point in the open great room. Originally, Nordin resisted the idea of raw steel, which felt a bit too industrial, so the designers agreed to paint it black. But then she saw it in person. "I couldn't picture it until I saw it, but I love it," she admits.

The raw steel complements the exposed stone wall, oak floors and beetlekill pine ceiling—a mix of rustic and contemporary that pervades the interior. For example, the walnut cabinetry in the open kitchen is accented by a raw steel range hood and jet-cut glass tile backsplash. And geode-like glass globes illuminate both the Cristallo quartzite waterfall island and the open dining area. "Every room has an element of shine," Tiedeken O'Brien says.

Indeed, flanked by matching wood-and-silver-leaf side tables and accented by a fur floor throw, a German silver-leafed bed reflects the natural daylight in the master bedroom. The >>

OPPOSITE: Sofas by Bernhardt and a Mongolian fur accent chair invite long conversations in front of the stone fireplace. THIS PAGE: A colorful rug by Loloi Rugs defines a quartet of chairs by Restoration Hardware on the porch.

MODERNIZING A MOUNTAIN MANSE

Vertical Arts knew just how to accommodate Howard and Nordin Weinberger's desire for something more up to date, even eclectic, than the traditional rustic mountain abode. Here's how they did it.

LEAN INTO THE CURVE The ceiling trusses have a gentle arc shape, and many of the light fixtures have a swoop detail that softens the angular architecture. **THINK TEXTURE** A Mongolian wool chair and bespoke throw pillows add a pop of texture to the serene, neutral living room. **ADD A LITTLE GLAM** Geode-like glass pendants and a complementary chandelier, both by Hammerton Studio, add a modern touch to the open kitchen and dining rooms. And a mango wood bed wrapped in German silver leaf does the same for the master suite. **INTRODUCE INDUSTRIAL** A raw steel fireplace and a custom blackened range hood in the same finish take the home in a more modern direction. **DON'T NEGLECT LIGHTING** At night, this home glows, thanks to its many indirect light sources, including cove lighting in the basement ceiling and concealed lighting underneath the edge of the kitchen island and beneath the lower lip of the fireplace. "We want to create different lighting scenes or moods depending on the time of day and the event you're having," project manager Chandler Deimund says.

LEFT: One of several throughout the house, a pendant by Corbett Lighting adds a touch of whimsy to the stairway landing. BELOW: The open kitchen juxtaposes a blackened steel hood with the wood cabinetry and quartzite countertops. OPPOSITE: A glass chandelier by Hammerton Studio illuminates a custom dining table by New Classics and side chairs by Artistic Frame.

handmade ceramic shower tile in the adjacent master bathroom likewise pops against the white ceramic subway tile and metal branch-like chandelier.

The other bedrooms are conveniently located on the lower level, which also features a large family room decked out with a wet bar, built-in bunks and a pool table. "Even though you're on the lower level, it feels open and airy, and you still get awesome views," Deimund says.

Just outside, a flight of steps leads to the covered deck off of the dining room, where a double-sided stone fireplace separates the living and dining area from the hot tub. Tall pines, decorative boulders and native wildflowers surround the deck, creating the sense of being in the wild despite the nearby neighbors. "This lot had a lot of natural beauty already, so we tried to retain as much as we could," landscape designer Mitch Rewold explains.

While they use every room, the covered deck just might be Howard and Nordin's favorite spot. Now retired, the couple spends most of the summer at the house, often accompanied by their adult kids, extended family and friends. In fact, they've only been there by themselves two nights. "It's been a party the entire time we're out here, and that's exactly what we wanted," Nordin says. "We're excited every time we walk in the door." ○

OPPOSITE: Flanked by wooden side tables by Caracole, a silver-leafed bed by Bernhardt reflects the abundant natural daylight in the master bedroom. THIS PAGE: A branch-like metal chandelier by Currey and Company adds a touch of nature to the spa-like master bathroom that features painted Shaker-style cabinetry, subway wall tile by Sonoma Tilemakers and shower tile by Encore Ceramics.

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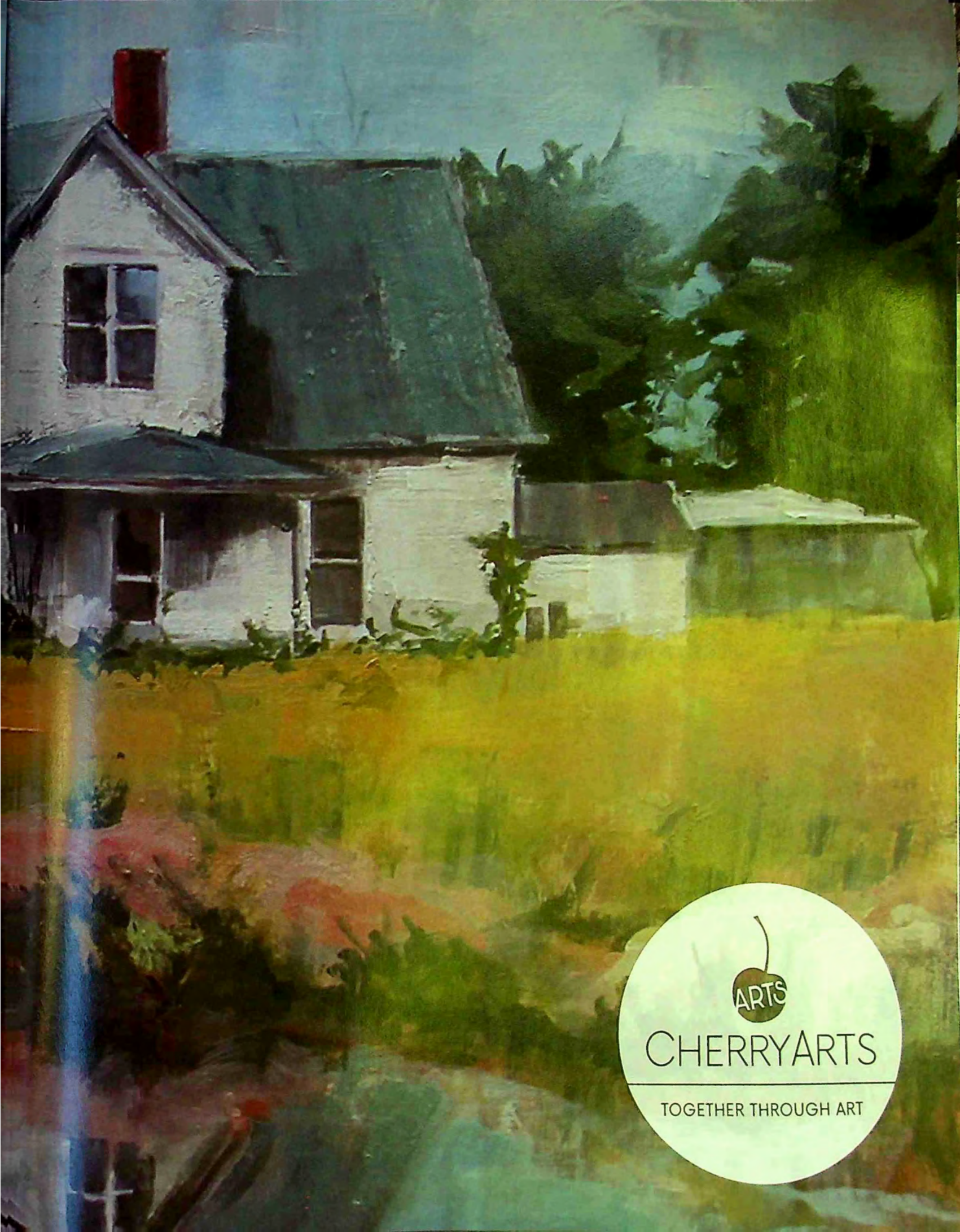
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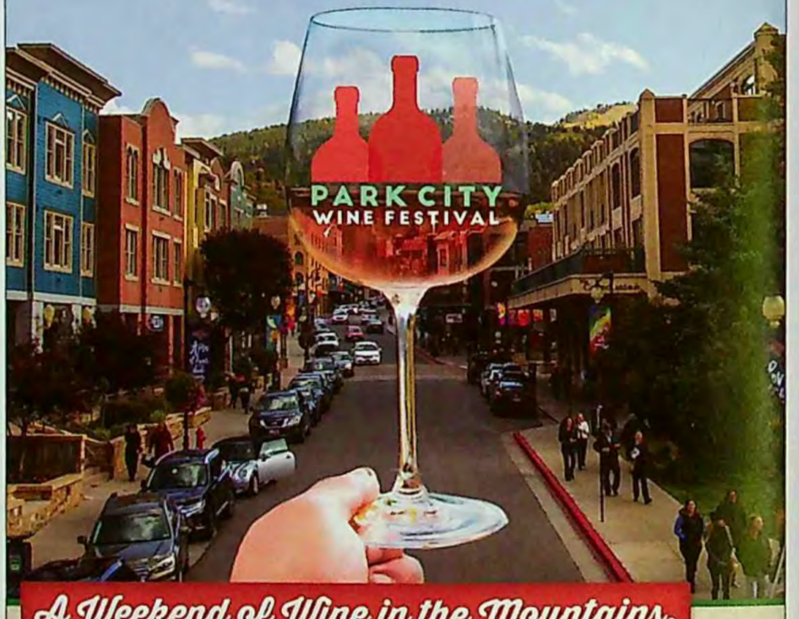

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Dancing with Color

INTERVIEW **LAURA BEAUSIRE**

THE ARTIST Neltje

KNOWN FOR Exuberant abstract canvases swirling with layers of color.

ON BECOMING AN ARTIST "It sort of overtook me. It had nothing to do with my making a decision. I was friends with the Abstract Expressionists, and I hung out with them, so it was like something I saw my brothers and sisters were doing."

THE LURE OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM "The power of energy, the power of color, the power of line—it touched me deeply. It was like I had a voice, which I'd never had before, and that was huge."

ALL ABLAZE
From the series "Tell Me, Why Flowers?"
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WESTERN INFLUENCE "It has been responsible for the change in size and the change in colors, and the very basic energy transference that it delineates. Wyoming is different from other states. It has a sweep of space and powerful light and a very direct way of speaking and powerful landscapes. And I could go on! Cowboy boots..."

COLOR AND ENERGY "Color is my life's blood, color is how I breathe, color is the sun I inhale and the snow that I exhale. I'm translating myself; I'm translating how I feel. I'm translating how I feel looking at or being part of the landscape, the skyscape, the intimate and the large. I record my feeling of a moment, not of an hour or a day, but just of a moment. And if I can get somewhere near what that moment was, I've done my job."

LARGE SCALE "I hear the shout of flowers. I don't think small."

PAINTING AS DANCE "You know, as a kid the one thing you can do when you're having a good time is you dance. And I haven't grown up."

NEXT Neltje's series "Tell Me, Why Flowers?" and "Dialogue of My Mind" are both on exhibition at the Yellowstone Art Museum, in Billings, Montana, through October 18, 2020. ○

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